

**NYMPHOMANIA,**  
OR, A  
**DISSERTATION**  
CONCERNING THE  
**FUROR UTERINUS.**

Clearly and methodically explaining the  
**BEGINNING, PROGRESS,**  
AND  
**DIFFERENT CAUSES**  
OF THAT  
**HORRIBLE DISTEMPER.**  
TO WHICH ARE ADDED,  
The Methods of treating the several Stages of it,  
AND  
THE MOST APPROVED REMEDIES.

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Written originally in FRENCH  
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AND TRANSLATED BY  
EDWARD SLOANE WILMOT, M. D.

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M.DCC.LXXV.



MANIPULATION

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TO  
THE MOST LOVELY AND VALUABLE PART OF  
THE CREATION,  
IN GREAT-BRITAIN, AND IRELAND,  
THIS DISSERTATION,  
WHICH HATH, FOR THEIR SAKES, BEEN  
RENDERED INTO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE,  
IS EARNESTLY, AND RESPECTFULLY  
DEDICATED  
BY  
THEIR OBEDIENT, AND DEVOTED  
HUMBLE SERVANT,  
E. S. WILMOT.

PADUA, JANUARY 13, 1775.

## ERRATA.

Page 13, line 14, for *simply*, read *simple*.

19, line 8, for *discharged*, read *discharge*.

20, line 26, after *death*, add a semicolon.

22, line 26, after *chyle*, add a full stop.

32, note b, line 2, for *drank*, read *drunk*.

34, line 24, read *delightful*.

54, line 25, read *titillations*.

59, line 21, after *disb*, insert only a comma.

65, line 2, for *prove*, read *probe*.

125, line 11, read *baken*.

136, line 14, read *too*.

137, line 12, for *toil*, read *toilet*.



# T H E C O N T E N T S.

<i>THE Preface.</i>	Page i
CHAP. I. <i>Description of the organical parts of woman.</i>	17
CHAP. II. <i>A general description of the Nymphomania, or Furor Uterinus.</i>	28
CHAP. III. <i>The causes and accidents of the Nymphomania.</i>	50
CHAP. IV. <i>The degrees and symptoms of the Furor Uterinus.</i>	64
CHAP. V. <i>The diagnostic signs of the Furor Uterinus, and the prognostics to be drawn from them.</i>	81
CHAP. VI. <i>The methods of cure in the first and second stage of the Furor Uterinus; the relief to be expected in the third stage.</i>	108
<i>Observations on the imagination, as connected with the Nymphomania.</i>	156

2

17

28

30

34

41

108

150

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T H E  
P R E F A C E.

**W**ERE I to open this work, without laying before the public the reasons which have induced me to investigate a subject, at once so delicate and important, some prejudices might probably be thrown in the way of my intentions. The first duty of an author should be to acquire the confidence of the reader, in relation to those matters concerning which he proposes to treat. But this alone is not sufficient; he ought to prove that he deserves this confidence. His sagacious enquiries, his fortunate discoveries, his evident principles, his moral, and physical proofs, the perspicuity of his method, the truth, and facility of  
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the means which he employs, the very novelty of his subject, and his manner of discussing it, are the road which he must take, to persuade, without deceiving, to assist, without being censured, and to succeed, without dreading either the suggestions of ill-grounded prejudices, or the clamors of envy. Far from endeavouring to penetrate into the motives by which the ancient and the modern authors were impelled, when they either left this subject in the obscurity of silence, or gave but an imperfect sketch of it, I shall rest satisfied with explaining the reasons which have prompted me to write on it, *ex professo*.

The celebrated *Astruc*, (a) at the end of his treatise *des maladies des femmes*, hath

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(a) Doctor *John Astruc*, who died at *Paris*, in 1766, at the age of eighty-three years, was physician to *Lewis* the fifteenth, to *Augustus* the second, of *Poland*, and professor of the royal college. His knowledge, distinguished as it was, can only be said to have equalled his modesty, politeness, humanity, prudence, and moderation. His principal works,

## P R E F A C E.

iii

hath given us a short Latin essay, which seems to have escaped, with difficulty, from the modesty of his learned pen; he hath written in this language, in order to conceal his sentiments from the eyes of the vulgar, and to impart them only to enlightened readers, and the faculty, whose province it is to remedy the disorders of nature.

I dare not condemn an excess of modesty proceeding from so respectable a character; yet, I cannot suppose myself

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obliged

works, besides that to which *Mr. de Bienville* refers, are, *Memoires pour servir a l'histoire du Languedoc*, 1737, in quarto. *De morbis venereis, libri sex*. This appeared, at first, in only a quarto volume; but the copies having been quickly sold off, the author, some years afterwards, published a second edition in two volumes; and these *Mr. Iault* translated into French. On this subject, nothing seems wanting, except a little precision. *Art d'accoucher reduit à ses principes*; to this, is prefixed a very pleasing, and sensible letter concerning the conduct which *Adam* and *Eve* should have pursued, at the birth of their first children. *Mr. Astruc*, also, wrote dissertations on different medical subjects, and on other subjects

obliged to receive the silence of such a man, as a law. I am sensible that every individual, who writes for the service of his fellow-creatures, should be well acquainted with the real boundaries of decency, and determined not to pass them; far from offending against these sacred laws, I am convinced that the means which I employ must tend to the establishment of this virtue. By what motives more powerful, and certain, shall we fix its empire, than by presenting to the view, even of the fair sex, the lively, and striking picture of those shocking, and incredible miseries, which are ready to overwhelm a young girl, in the very moment, when she takes the first step which

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jects not relating to physic. His genius, and abilities were unconfined; witness his *Conjectures sur les memoires originaux qui ont servi à le Genese*: and *dissertation sur l'immaterialité*. After his death, were published *memoires pour servir à l'histoire de la faculté de medecine de Montpellier*, 4to. 1767. His son is honorary president of the court of aids, and master of the requests, in France. . . *Sequitur patrem, et passibus æquis.* W.



## P R E F A C E.

which leads her beyond the path of chastity? May my pencil be sufficiently expressive, may my colours be sufficiently natural to inspire all that horror, with which so detestable a vice should be surveyed! may my succours compleat the victory over so dangerous an infirmity!

The human mind, limited in itself, seduced, and blinded by passions, feels more strongly the fear of a punishment physically demonstrated, than the menaces of a correction morally established, a correction which from its distance is but little affecting, whilst the term, the measure, and, frequently, the reality of it are effaced by hope. What obligations have the public not received from the energetic treatise concerning *Onanism*? How great is the vertue of those true, and frightful representations which *Mr. Tissot* hath, there, painted with such expressive force? How many thousand youths have, in consequence of his advice, escaped from that abyss, in which

they were preparing to plunge? How many thousands more have extricated themselves from it, through his assistance, in the moment, when they were yielding up a miserable life to that disorder which, in his work, is described with all the powers and truth of language?

Can that book be considered as dangerous, the sole design of which is to prevent illicit pleasure; to intimidate those young persons who may be subject to this unhappy madness; and to restrain the vicious transports of the constitution, by striking lessons, and by principles, and consequences drawn from nature which must persuade?

Should this work fall into the hands of young persons, whether from the inattention of their parents, whether from the negligence of those who may have been designed to superintend their education, or whether from the seductions of some libertines, who are never at a loss for an artifice, whereby they gain a foot-

footing in decent families; if, in a word, by any accident whatsoever, a young girl should find an opportunity to read this book, what must be the consequence? Nothing. At the most, she would be taught to lament over that prodigious assemblage of imperfections, to which her sex is liable, and those infinitely multiplied causes of her disorders, and of her entire destruction.

The premature knowledge which she might acquire by a perusal of this treatise, would neither nourish her pride, nor corrupt her morals; she would feel the fragility of her nature; she would respect, and even cherish the principles which could certainly preserve her from that impending wreck to which the sex are, by reason of their imbecillity, exposed.

It is, on this account, that fully convinced of how little detriment my work must prove, I have not hesitated to publish it, with the view of promoting those essential benefits, which it is calculated



to produce. For, what advantages may not be drawn from it, by fathers, mothers, and all persons entrusted with the education of young girls? With what understanding, and discretion, may they not direct, and enlighten the opening dispositions of these tender pupils? And how happy must they esteem themselves, when thus enabled to act, as the secret physicians of a disorder, capable of covering with shame all those who may be attacked by it, and of causing the most bitter anguish to the parents who gave birth to such unfortunate wretches? Besides, I cannot perceive any solid reason which ought to compel, or simply to authorise a physician to observe a profound silence, concerning the nature of a distemper, which should be, as much as other distempers, an important object of his enquiries and assistance.

A celebrated author, not less esteemed for his piety, than for his skill in the principles of the art of healing, an art  
which

## P R E F A C E.

ix

which he hath unfolded with erudition, method, and admirable eloquence, enquires whether an honest physician may be permitted to prescribe preservatives against those disorders which may accrue from the commission of a crime, on which it is impossible to reflect, without horror.

In answer to this, he doth not scruple to declare that every science ought not only to be limited to its object, but entirely to attend to it; that, of course, a physical disorder being the object of medicine, all the affections which result from it necessarily demand the study and enquiries of the physician, not merely that remedies may be applied to such complaints as actually exist, but also that means capable of preventing these complaints may be discovered, without considering the horror of the principle. It is the privilege of God alone to cause the guilty to meet death in the perpetration of their crimes; it is our duty to tremble,

tremble, whilst we revere the equity of His judgments; yet we ought continually to implore, and, as far as we are able, imitate His excessive mercy. It is to the truth, it is to the indefatigable clemency of the ALMIGHTY, that I must bear this testimony; for I have attended several patients who were in the most imminent danger; and if I despaired of being able to cure them, it was rather on account of their blasphemies, and continual imprecations, than because their disorder was of such a particular nature; I have seen even these restored to perfect health; an instance of Divine Mercy which raises our wonder, and should excite our imitation.

If a physician be, therefore, obliged, by his situation, to endeavour not only to accomplish the cure of any distemper whatsoever, but also, if it be possible, to prevent the existence of such a distemper, can he be censured without injustice, when he adopts the surest, and most general



neral plan, in order to attain the end which he pursues? I am expressly under this predicament; the disease concerning which I write, is not chimerical; that it exists amongst the fair sex, is but too true; its progress becomes every day more rapid and alarming. Though all the world were to dissent from what I have advanced, I should still have reason to rely on the evidence of my senses, and of my discoveries.

I am therefore justified in laying open the causes, and variations of this disease, and my duty exacts from me, that I should prescribe the proper remedies.

From this first reflection, another arises which is still more essential to the preservation of the species; from amongst the means fit to be opposed against the contagion, the chief point is to chuse the most efficacious one, a mean, the knowledge of which may become the most certain, speedy, and universal. Now, what can be imagined more capable of  
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insuring all these different successes, than a work where truths are plain, and where expressions, less eloquent, than natural, and alarming, are like so many thunderbolts, by which the most obstinate, and infatuated minds must be stricken with conviction and remorse?

I should esteem myself too happy, could my reflections prove in the least serviceable to society. Undoubtedly, the zeal for the public welfare which guides my pen doth not answer for its success. Some of the learned may, probably, condescend to criticise this work: It is my wish that sentiments, similar to those which induced me to compose it, may prevail on them to favor the world with their opinions. Such a step must be attended with advantages; I shall still glory in having been humbled, since, even under these circumstances, I may boast that I withdrew an interesting subject from obscurity, although my labor were to be buried under another, destined to arise  
in

upon its ruins. I am far from entertaining so partial an idea of my knowledge, as to suppose it exempted from errors. May some more able writer fully accomplish an undertaking which I have but just opened! I shall yield without a blush, and even with pleasure, to truths rendered more striking, to surer principles, and to an eloquence more energetic and alarming.

Be this as it may, it is less for the professors of the medical art that I write, than for the generality of men, and women who, simply in their own thoughts, will kindly allow for the simplicity of mine. Experience will convince them with what sincerity I have presented these images to their view; and the success of my remedies will occasion them to return me a grateful acknowledgment, by fixing some estimation on my labors.

In the course of this work, I shall observe the following order.

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The first chapter will contain proofs of the weakness of the sex, drawn from their organical construction, in order to give the reader a clear idea of the nature of the fibres, and muscles, which perform a principal part in the accidents of the *matrix*.

The second chapter will be composed of a general description of the *Nymphomania*, or *Furor Uterinus*.

In the third chapter, will be introduced a deduction of the different causes, and affections of this distemper.

The variety of its degrees, and symptoms, will be the subject of the fourth chapter.

The diagnostic signs, and prognostics of it, will be established in the fifth chapter.

I shall, in the sixth chapter, describe the methods of cure, and point out the most certain specifics in the different stages of the disorder. I shall not attempt to conceal how little hope must remain of curing

curing those who may have fallen into the third, and last stage. The most approved specifics will, notwithstanding, be mentioned; and such rules of conduct will be prescribed, as may, should such an event be still possible, contribute to a cure, or, at least, remove that despair into which the patient is apt to sink, in the extremity of her distemper.

At the end of this work, the reader will find an *appendix*, containing receipts, to which he is, numerically, referred; and lest any mistakes should be committed in the preparations of the several doses, the quantities will be described in the plainest terms.

Thus assisted, any person may make up these receipts, without running the least hazard. It is my anxious wish, that this performance may be recurred to, with a success equal to the labour, attention, and candour, from which I have never swerved, during the compilation of it, pleased with having stripped myself,  
for

for the sake of the public, of that knowledge which some practitioners would have concealed as a rare, and valuable secret. With this fault, there is reason to reproach many of the faculty, who are, in all other respects, highly entitled to our esteem. Is this the meanness of the mind? Or, is it sordid self-interest? In whatsoever light, we view this conduct, it appears equally contemptible; I have heard several physicians congratulate themselves on having only given to the public, what it was no loss to part from; and on having reserved, for their own private advantage, the true specifics for those disorders, concerning which they may have treated. That such a way of thinking should be natural to a mountebank, is not at all astonishing; but, can it be the vice of noble, humane, and honest minds?

NYMPHOMANIA,



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# Nymphomania,

OR, A

## DISSERTATION

CONCERNING THE

## FUROR UTERINUS.

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### CHAP. I.

*A description of the organical parts of woman.*

AS the origin and progress of the disorder, which we term *Furor Uterinus*, absolutely proceeds from the impressions and dispositions of the interior fibres of the organs, it seems unnecessary that I should, in this place, enter into any detail relative to the exterior parts of woman.

I intend, therefore, to confine myself to as succinct a description as possible of her interior parts, and, principally, of such as conspire to the impressions and affections of the *matrix*, the chief seat of those disorders, the dreadful picture of which I shall attempt to paint.

In the parts of woman are two conduits, one of which is called the canal of the *Uretbra*; of this, I shall give no description, as it is entirely foreign to my subject; the other part is the *Vagina*, which (as the anatomists inform us) is a long canal descending from the orifice of the *matrix* to the extremity of the *pudendum muliebre*.

In virgins, the *vagina* is about five or six inches long; it passes between the bladder and the *rectum*. Of the two membranes which compose its substance, the one is internal, and the other is external.

The internal membrane is a texture of nerves which of course render it extremely sensible. Its interior part is full of spiral wrinkles which extend themselves during a labour. This canal is filled with vesicles containing a mucosity which is discharged from an infinite number of little glands : from  
hence

hence proceeds the humidity so very necessary in the *vagina*.

The external membrane is a texture of muscular fibres capable of extension, and of contraction. At the inferior part of this canal may be perceived a *plexus* of vessels which compose a cavernose body filled with arterial blood, which these vessels discharged during certain moments of pleasure, and being embraced by a quantity of muscular fibres, already mentioned, particularly contract the orifice, and occasion an exquisite sensibility.

The arteries, and veins of the superior part of the *vagina* proceed from the hypogastrics, and those of the inferior part have their principal in the hæmorrhoidals. They communicate themselves every one to the others, and are designed to vivify them in order to swell, and stiffen the cavernose bodies by the extreme sensibility which reigns there. The surplus of the blood of the arteries is carried by the veins into the *vena cava*.

The *matrix* is a membranous body composed of a cellular texture of fibres, covered by a great quantity of sanguine vessels. Its figure is the exact resemblance of a pear, in the cavity of which might be contained a



large almond, or kernel; its length from its internal orifice to the fund is the breadth of three fingers; its posterior part is two inches wide; its interior part is in width one inch; it is an inch thick. Its situation is in the inferior part of the *hypogastrium* between the *rectum*, and the bladder, where it is defended by the *os pubis* in front, and, behind, by the *os sacrum*. But between these and it there exists a certain space which occasions in the sex the protuberance of the hips.

The orifice of the *matrix* which joins itself to the superior part of the *vagina* is very small, and somewhat resembles the muzzle of a dog; its internal cavity, at the neck of the orifice is called *cervix matricis*. Its surface is uneven, and full of wrinkles, in the intervals of which are several very small conduits which sprinkle the *cervix* of the *matrix* during the menstrual discharge. The *Fluor albus* issues from glands which proceed originally from these little conduits, and which are properly the seat of this disorder so common, in these days, amongst the sex, and which they support without reflecting that it carries along with it a principle of death, the remedies in this case are notwithstanding extremely

tremely well known. The neck of the *matrix* hath little holes which are the extremities of the conduits which issue from the seminal vesicles, designed to pour into the *matrix* a mucilaginous and spermatic liquor, which the vesicles pump, and draw from the testicles, or *ovaria* of the woman, and which, not being a seed, nevertheless supplies the place of it, by the pleasure which it occasions when issuing from these vesicles, which are little spherical bodies serving as a receptacle for this spermatic liquor which is there introduced by the different vessels which originate from the *ovaria*. These vesicules are nervous and muscular. They dilate themselves by the motion of the acceleratory muscles which occasion them to draw the spermatic liquor, which, in that moment, obliges them to contract themselves, in order to drive it with force into the cavity of the *matrix*. Hitherto the woman hath acted entirely alone; and as the particular motion of her organs, now well known to us, is sufficient to give us a full idea of causes taken from her nature, and relative to the accidents of the *Furor Uterinus*, we shall not enter on a farther enquiry into the uses of her muscles, and

fibres, lest it might lead us, in spite of ourselves, to treat of the principles and effects of generation.

I shall confine myself to some few observations concerning the situation of the veins, the arteries, and the nerves of the *matrix*, and its ligaments, because all these are particularly connected with my subject; and although the *ovaria* do not essentially relate to the accidents of which I treat, it may yet be necessary to explain the nature, the situation, and the effects which frequently become the source of a multitude of disorders, through the ignorance either of fathers, and mothers, or of those to whom the education of youth is intrusted.

The arteries and veins of the *matrix* proceed from the hæmorrhoidals, the hypogastrics, and the spermatic vessels which form an *anastomasis*, or communicate at their extremities with each other. The nerves of the *matrix* are from the *intercostals*, and those of the *os sacrum*. There are several lymphatic vessels in its internal surface, which, uniting themselves by little and little, form large branches which have their insertion in the reservoir of the chyle, all the vessels of the *matrix* twine about its external surface, making



ing several turnings, and doublings which secure them from a rupture by extension.

The posterior part of the *matrix* doth not hold by any thing. The anterior part is joined to the bladder, and to the *rectum*, and each side by two kinds of ligaments, which are divided into large ligaments, and into round ligaments.

The large ligaments are nothing more than a production of the *peritonæum* which proceeds from the sides of the *matrix*. They are composed of a double membrane which contains another within its duplicature. They are usually compared, on account of their figure and size, to the wings of a bat.

The *ovarium* adheres to one of their extremities: it hath its different vessels; the one inserts itself into the fund of the *matrix*, and the other prepares to discharge itself into the feminal vessels, near the neck of the *matrix*.

The round ligaments proceed from the anterior, and lateral part of the fund of the *matrix*, and passing by the productions of the *peritonæum* a-cross the rings, or holes of the oblique, and transversal muscles of the *abdomen*, they lose themselves in the fat near

the groin, where they form an expansion resembling the foot of a goose.

In women there are four spermatic vessels. They are shorter than those of men: each artery forms several folds, and doublings; descending they divide themselves into two branches, the smallest of which spreads to the *ovarium*, and the largest separates itself into three branches, of which one extends itself over the *matrix*, a second above the *vagina*, and the third over the ligaments of the *matrix*, and the *Fallopian* tubes.

The *ovaria* are two bodies of an oval figure, a little flattened in the fore-part, each of which is situated at the sides, at about the distance of two fingers breadth from the fund of the *matrix*. These ovaria, which are also called the testicles of woman, are glandulous, and membranous, and almost by one half less large than those of men. Their natural surface is smooth, they are covered by a proper membrane which powerfully adheres to their substance, and by another common membrane which proceeds also from the *peritonæum*, and which covers the spermatic vessels. Their substance is a composition of glands, of fibres, and of membranes, which leave little interme-

intermediate spaces, in which there are round vesicles of a different size, full of a white liquor. A dozen of these may sometimes be observed in a single *ovarium*.

I shall not describe how, and under what form, the nerves adhere to the *ovarium*, or rather to its *interstices*. I shall say nothing of the falling of the *ova*, or eggs, and of their fecundation in the *matrix*: these speculations are quite foreign to my subject. But I cannot avoid taking notice of the falling against nature of these same *ova*, because, as I have already observed, it is a source of striking accidents, to which young persons, in particular, are subject.

By this falling against nature, I would understand the falling of the *ova* before their maturity, that is, before the time prescribed by the common rules of nature, whether in the order of generation amongst women, or whether in that of the menstrual flux, amongst all persons of the sex.

Its cause proceeds from some indisposition of the *ovaria* which form them, or from some impurity of the blood which mixes itself with the substance of these *ova*, from whence it happens that they detach themselves, the one  
after



after the other, before the time. Then their substance, like that of unripened, or worm-eaten fruits, causes a violent irritation in the cavity of the *matrix*, and by its pungent acrimony cuts the capillary extremities of the sanguine vessels, the which occasions the pure blood of the veins to flow, for a long while. This is called an *issue of blood*. This is the first disorder. From this, in the second disorder, are introduced excruciating cholics; the third disorder, which is the most dangerous, is attended with ulcers in the *matrix*. Happy the Physician who can discover them, when they exist in this part; but happier he, who knows how to apply the real specifics.

When, on the contrary, through some obstruction in the *viscera*, or from the default of a proper conformation, or from the misconduct of the person afflicted, or from any indisposition whatsoever, the blood hath no power to emit into the vesicles that precious juice, which forms the fecundity of nature, an incurable barrenness must follow, when the vice is in the solids, or else the jaundice, and the *Chlorosis*, or green sickness, which would soon bring the unfortunate sufferer to the grave, were she not to have the speediest recourse

recourse to some remedies capable of re-establishing the fluids.

At the end of my Appendix of Formularies are added two specifics, the most convenient and agreeable of which may be taken, according to the situation of the persons, and the taste of the sick.

I have extended my observations farther than I designed in this description of the organical parts of woman. But as I imagined that some knowledge of this subject would be necessary for the reader, in the course of the work, I have on this account, been less reserved than was agreeable to my first resolution. It will, now, be proper to give a general idea of the *Nymphomania*.

## C H A P. II.

*A general description of the Nymphomania,  
or Furor Uterinus.*

BY the *Nymphomania* is understood an irregular, and disturbed motion of the fibres, in the organical parts of woman. This disorder is different from most others which are sudden in their attack, and declare, nearly at once, by evident symptoms, all their malignity; the *Nymphomania*, on the contrary, lurks, almost without exception, under the imposing outside of an apparent calm, and frequently hath acquired a dangerous nature, when not only its progress, but its beginnings elude our perception. Sometimes the fair one, who is attacked by it, stands with one foot upon the precipice, without suspecting that



that she is in peril. It is a serpent which hath insensibly glided into her heart; and fortunate must she be, if before it can have mortally wounded her, she should exert a powerful resolution, and flee with speed, from this cruel and destructive foe.

This disorder frequently surprizes the younger part of the sex, at a marriageable age, when their hearts, premature in love, have warmly pleaded in favor of some youth, for whom they feel a desperate passion, the gratification of which is opposed by insurmountable obstacles.

Debauched girls who, during a long time, have lived amidst the disorders of a voluptuous life, are on a sudden, attacked by this malady. This is frequently the case, when an involuntary retreat drives them far off from the opportunities of indulging their fatal inclinations. Married women are not exempted from this distemper, particularly, when they are united either to an husband of so feeble a temperament, as to exact continence in his pleasures, or to a cold mate, but little sensible of the delights of enjoyment.

To this disorder, young widows are frequently liable, especially if death hath deprived

prived them of a strong, and vigorous man, during a commerce with whom, by acts briskly repeated, they had acquired an habitude in pleasures, the delicious remembrance of which too often affects them with that bitter regret, which produces uneasinesses, agitations, and motions at the first involuntary, but which, in the end, soon throw the mind into the most alarming situation.

In a word, all, when once they yield themselves a prey to this disorder, are uninterruptedly busied with equal perseverance and eagerness in the search of such objects as may kindle their passions at the infernal firebrand of lubricity; and if they engage with particular ardor in the pursuit, it is because they are impelled to it, by the natural vehemence of their constitution.

This natural vehemence must be stimulated, and increased, when they read such luxurious novels as begin by preparing the heart for the impression of every tender sentiment, and end by leading it to the knowledge of all the grosser passions, and causing it to glow with each lascivious sensation. They also add fuel to the flames which devour them, by learning the most amorous songs:

songs: their impassioned voices incessantly accompany the tunes, and words of these which breathe into their souls the poison destined to destroy them.

In their particular conversations with their companions, they are so far from using any efforts to banish the most seducing subjects from their imaginations, that they are assiduous in making them the leading topics. If, in spite of all their art, they cannot prevent the discourse from taking a turn quite opposite to their passions, they sink into languor, and pine under an incurable disquiet, which they have not the power to conceal.

They perpetually dishonor themselves in secret by habitual pollutions, of which they are themselves the unfortunate agents, until they have openly passed the bounds of modesty; but when impudence enlists itself on their side, they are no longer fearful of procuring this dreadful, and detestable pleasure from the assisting hand of a stranger.

Always disposed to listen to the flattering, and seducing compliments of the men who surround them, they shudder at the most trifling employments whensoever they prove capable of turning them, for one moment,  
aside



aside from those lascivious subjects, which are the favorite pleasures of their imagination.

From the walks, where the most innocent sports of nature are, in their pre-occupied minds, the lively attractions of voluptuousness, they proceed to luxurious tables, at which the sharp, stimulating, and poisoned meats give the finishing stroke to that horrible disorder, into which the blood had previously been thrown.

Strong wines with which they are incessantly drenched, spirituous liquors which they swallow, as if they were water, the abused, and excessive use of chocolate; (b) all these  
articles

(b) The coloring in one part of this picture is, probably, a little heightened. Wine drank to a certain excess, by a person of strong and lascivious passions, and not accustomed to intoxicating draughts, may add fuel to this flame of lust; but in a confirmed habit of *swallowing spirituous liquors like water*, the amorous desires are gradually dying away, and must shortly, be entirely extinguished. This is a truth which I know some husbands do not, and, let me add with inexpressible concern, I fear, some ladies cannot call in question. The immoderate use of chocolate was, in the last century, considered as so violent an inflamer of the passions, that *Joan. Franc. Rauch* (in his *Disputatio medicodietetica, de aëre, et esculentis, nec-non de potu. Vienna Austria,*

articles, (a single one of which is capable of corrupting the animal harmony) when united, impart additional fury to the flames which burn for their destruction; all these throw such sparks amongst the passions, as set fire to the most shameful and unbridled lust.

I grant that all these alarming accidents, of which it is impossible to draw a picture sufficiently hideous, are, at the first, supportable; but the dismal events which they produce, soon become of the highest concern, unless the most prudent means to repress their course, be instantly and earnestly embraced. On the contrary, the women who have neither the resolution, nor the power to turn  
C back,

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*Austria, Schilgen, 1622, & 1624. in 4to.* Warmly enforces the necessity of forbidding the *monks* to drink it; and adds, that if such an interdiction had existed, the scandal with which that *sacred* order hath been branded, might have proved more groundless. This work is a *rara avis* which is but seldom caught, even by the most indefatigable of the *Virtuosi* in uncommon libraries. It is indebted for its scarcity to an equally singular and ridiculous circumstance. The *monks*, fearful of losing their characters, or, what, perhaps, was dearer to them, their chocolate, were so diligent in suppressing almost every copy, that the *connoisseurs* reckon but five in Europe. W.

back, after having taken their first step in this labyrinth of horrors, fall insensibly, and almost without any perception of their conduct, into those excesses which, having wounded their reputation, conclude by depriving them of life.

These sufferers are continually absorbed in the same thought, and their greatest apprehensions are lest they should be withdrawn from it, for a single moment. They dwell only on the fatal object, who is the cause of their disorder; they see but him alone; all the powers of their mind are, as it were, immoveable; they neither perceive, nor understand any thing which passes near them; one principal and sole business engages their attention, they absolutely neglect every other, and even that on which depends the proper management of their family, and, of course, their fortune. Sad, and melancholy, they become fond of repose, and silence; if they interrupt this silence, it is only to talk to themselves. But woe be either to him, or to her, who shall dare to trouble this delightful, still retirement. The violence which they do themselves, by endeavoring to conceal that dreadful flame which consumes them,



them, is the completion of their miseries. But this violence doth not last long.

A beautiful youth presents himself to their view; yet, what do I say? a man, such as they chuse to imagine him to be; for in the whirlwind of flames which compose their atmosphere, the sparks of fire which dart from their eyes may well cast such light and brilliancy over any object, howsoever deformed, as would change a *Vulcan* into an *Adonis*. This man, then, let him be what he will, becomes, in an instant, the object of their desires. They listen with the most eager attention to the slightest flatteries, and even the customary compliments which he pays them are, in their opinion, a train of well-designed seductions. They answer him in a tone of voice, and by gestures expressive of a lively passion; and they consider as serious the usual pleasantries which arise in their mutual conversation. They not only surrender themselves up in the most unresisting manner to those desires, which they imagine that they have inspired; but it more frequently happens, that they outstrip the inclinations of their supposed lover, by an immodesty which disgraces their sex.

This distemper, already too violent, is not yet arrived at its last stage. In each access, it rages with redoubled malignity, and every symptom becomes daily more alarming. The real sensation of pleasures, added to those the different ideas of which are incessantly filling their imaginations, in a short time renders these wretched sufferers furious, and ungovernable; it is then, that breaking down, without the least remorse, the barriers of modesty, they betray each shocking secret of their lascivious minds by proposals, to the expressions of which even ears not uncommonly chaste cannot listen without horror, and astonishment; and soon the excess of their lust having exhausted all their power of contending against it, they throw off the restraining, honorable yoke of delicacy, and, without a blush, openly solicit in the most criminal, and abandoned language, the first-comers to gratify their insatiable desires. Although they meet with a repulse, yet they flatter themselves that they shall conquer, by employing all the arts of seduction. In order to accomplish this point, how wily are the snares in which, by conversation, and by gestures, they endeavor to trepan the objects

of

of their passion? when such advances meet with their deserved contempt, these monsters in human shape abandon themselves to an excess of fury, during which they asperse their despisers with the most unjust reproaches. They pursue them with scandalous accusations, intended to destroy their fame; they persecute them with unremitted obstinacy and clamour; and after having by a thousand fruitless stratagems conspired against their peace, and reputation, they violently, and sometimes even without precaution, indulge their vengeance in the perpetration of the most cruel and tragical crimes.

Hitherto, this malady, in how horrible a point of view soever I may have represented it, hath not passed the bounds of a melancholy *delirium*; but we shall soon perceive it raging in all the excesses of a confirmed madness.

It is then, that, as if afflicted with continual symptoms of insanity, they hiss, applaud, deny, affirm, assume ridiculous gestures, throw their bodies into strange contortions, attempt to stimulate the passions of the men by the loosest language, and, to ensure success, affect a disregard for attire, approaching to



nakedness, weakly imagining that it will be attributed to their piercing distractions, which, however, are not so artfully feigned as to impose on the simplicity of even the least experienced youth. If, notwithstanding all this, the men should reject their advances with disdain, they will fall on them with the most implacable fury; and so sudden will be the violence of their frenzy, that to find time for an escape from their assaults may scarcely be in the power of those against whose persons they are directed.

Whosoever hath not been an eye witness of these dreadful fits of madness, will feel a difficulty in believing the fatal truths which I am obliged to unfold, in the course of this work. Until I had visited countries less favored by nature, where the blood, instead of being animated by a sulphurous and balsamic air, is incessantly corrupted by lumps of ice which are there devoured, through the fatal necessity of respiration; where, instead of those perfumes which impart to it action and nourishment, the human frame is continually surrounded by cold, damp, and exceedingly unwholesome molecules, which destroy the spirituous properties of the blood,

the

the circulation of which is always languishing through the veins, and, consequently, incapable of repairing itself; until, (I say) I had travelled through those regions which I esteemed happy, because, in my humble opinion, their inhabitants were, in a less degree, a prey to passions, which, All-celestial in their principles, do nevertheless become, by our abuse of them, the inexhaustible sources of of disgrace; until, by a fatal experience, as humiliating to humanity, as detrimental to the plans of a well-meaning individual, who tenderly wishes to advance the welfare of his fellow-creatures, I had been fully convinced that the fire of lubricity, much more powerful, and active than that of nature, admits no difference either of climate, or of constitution, but burns, in all places, howsoever frozen, with the utmost violence, I should have adhered to the general opinion that this disorder was scarcely to be met with in the colder countries. It is on this account, (saith a celebrated physician, of whose observations I am, as it were, only the translator) that I have perceived, without astonishment, how silent on such an important subject those authors are who were born under these frigid

skies; yet I cannot conceal my surprize, when I behold the most celebrated writers of antiquity, inhabitants of the southern climes, such as *Hippocrates, Paulus Aegineta, Galen, and Celsus*, who have treated of physic, in *Greece, and Italy*, so profoundly inattentive to the *Furor Uterinus*, as not even to mention it; it is still more extraordinary that the physicians, who flourished in some of the later centuries, and whose high reputation is acknowledged by the present age, particularly those who passed their lives in the warmer countries, where, it is to be supposed this malady is most common, such as *Arnaldus de Villa-nova, Valescus Tarenti, Bernardus Gordonius, Guillaume Rondelet de Narbonne, (c) Antoine*

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(c) Before I assent to the propriety of those compliments which have been paid to the memory of the writers in this medical list, I shall, without remorse, endeavor to exclude from it *Guillaume Rondelet*. It is not always that good policy, or even humanity is to be found in the thread-bare precept, *speak nothing amiss of the dead*. Their ashes must sometimes, for the sake of posterity, be disturbed: and when a character is marked with the barbarity of a savage, it should be pursued by perpetual execrations, that the gentlemen of the faculty may be reminded how disgraceful to their profession,



Joins Guainier, Alexander Benedictus, a Veronese, who have all written, *ex professo*, on the disorders of women, seem to have studiously avoided the least intimation concerning the *Furor Uterinus*.

Soranus,

cession, is a want of feeling. *Rondelet*, who was born in 1507, at *Montpelier*, prevailed on his sovereign to honor it with an anatomical theatre. It was here, that sacrificing the sorrows of a father to his passion for dissection, he explained to his pupils the operations of the human frame, whilst, at intervals, he cut open the different parts of the dead body of his son. To how delicate, to how tender an access he was transported by the fine sensations of an husband, may be gathered from a passage relating to him, in the *Bibliographia anatomica* of Doctor Douglass: (“*filiorum etiam gemellorum quos uxor uno partu enixa erat, secundinas in gynaesium adferri curaverat, ut minime vulgaria super his doceret.*”) I cannot help thinking that the writings of this physician are by no means equal to the reputation which they have gained; and that if he should be remembered by another century, it must be only as the *Rondibilis* of *Rabelais*, a character which this *Cervantes* of France hath fitted on him, with peculiar humor. The most capital work, (and even this is not very accurately digested) which passes under his name, is “*Historia Piscium.*” *Lugduni*, folio, 1554. it hath been attributed to *Pellicier*, bishop of *Montpellier*, a prelate of uncommon genius, to whom *Rondelet*, on this occasion, was indebted for that rank, as an author, which he, possibly, would never have acquired, by his own abilities. W.

*Soranus*, a Greek physician, somewhat prior to *Galen*, who gained great reputation under *Trajan*, is the only ancient who hath treated of this subject. The work is lost; but *Aëtius*, in the sixteenth book, and seventy-fourth chapter of a performance entitled, a *system of physic taken from the ancients*, acknowledges that the observations on the *Nymphomania*, are extracts from *Soranus*; but as the whole is transcribed by *Janus Cornarius*, who hath rendered into Latin the works of *Aëtius*, Mr. *Astruc*, desirous of finding in the original Greek the real name of this disorder, examined, in the library of the king of *France*, the sixteen books of *Aëtius*, in manuscript, and discovered that the title of the chapter in question was *Peri tes metromanias*.

*Nicholaus Myrepsus*, of *Alexandria*, mentions an antidote against the *Nymphomania*, the excellence of which he highly commends; but he adds nothing more; it is, however, reasonable to suppose that he alludes to the *Furor Uterinus*.

*Zonaras*, in the twenty-third page of the third volume of his annals, relates that *Eusebia*, the wife of the emperor *Constantius*, son of *Constantine* the great, celebrated for her beauty,  
but

but better known by her disgrace with an husband who was feeble, cold, and consequently ill-adapted to the consummation of those pleasures, of which he deprived himself, on account of his habitual infirmities, fell into a mortal languor, which, being followed by violent fits of the *Furor Uterinus*, put a period to her days, before the death of *Constantius*.

Besides the term *Nymphomania*, which I have applied to this distemper, we meet with other denominations. *Moschio*, a Greek physician, calls it *Satyriasis*; some stile it *Metromania*, and some *Erotomania*,<sup>(d)</sup> which signifies the madness of love; but these names being arbitrary, I shall, in all references to the

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(d) If I mistake not, *Jacques Ferrand*, a celebrated physician of the last century, born at *Agen*, in the province of *Guienne*, hath written on this subject. The work is in octavo, and entitled, "*Traité de la maladie d'Amour, ou de la melancholie erotique, avec les remedes qui lui sont propres.*" Paris, 1623. *Monsieur de Bienwille*, may have recourse to it, in the library of the king of France, T. 1116, and the *English* reader will find it, (or, at least he might have found it, in the year 1734) in the *Middle Temple* library; 2 feat, side A, shelf G, number 19. W.



the *Furor Uterinus*, confine myself to the word *Nymphomania*.

I expect that, by this book, the curiosity of young men will be more excited than that of the sex. I should therefore be wanting in the zeal which I profess for their service, were I to conclude this chapter, without reminding them of a powerful corrector of that favorable idea which they may have formed of their superiority over the women, in matters of strength and excellence. This antidote is the *Onanisme* of *Monsieur Tissot*. On this subject, my weak pencil can never vie with the expressive and lively painting of this illustrious man: like him, I may describe truths, but I cannot, like him, throw them into the most interesting points of view. How many persons shall we find who, after having perused this important work, reflected on their situation, and felt those justly founded and salutary alarms which lead to the beginning of discretion. Such, undoubtedly, were fortunate. Yet how many other readers have experienced, not that comforting apprehension arising from the just horror which they may have conceived against their crime, but the accusations of a wounded conscience, which,

which, whilst it drives them to despair, affrights them with the prospect of those physical evils, to which they are exposed, by their own guilt. The dread, not only of disorders continually existing, but of those which unavoidably result from them, will afflict them with that mortal languor, which is the constant, and indefatigable persecutor of criminals who have dared to labor at the destruction of their being.

A gleam of hope will appear to withdraw them from a path leading to annihilation; they may, probably, have heard of one of those men, who, friends of their fellow creatures, are much more valuable than valued, much less respected, than respectable for that philosophic tenderness with which they search into the nature of those scarcely apparent, but evidently contagious and mortal distempers which spread desolation amongst the human species: such practitioners frequently, and without any assisting information from their patients, form other discoveries besides those which they obtain from their own experience, and from a study by so much the more laborious, as an equivocal representation is incessantly liable to involve in obscurity

rity that very knowledge which they imagine that they have acquired; a representation which the afflicted are induced to make, by an insurmountable, and ill-placed sense of shame, whilst they idly flatter themselves that they may preserve their life, and honor, with the assistance of a general use of medicines.

Let us suppose, then, that these unhappy sufferers should resolve to apply to some such celebrated man, with all that confidence, which an excess of misery can inspire. What must be the result? the alarming picture, which an honest physician, incapable of disgracing himself by holding out false and flattering prognostics, is obliged to represent of the disorders which affect their animal economy; a picture which is, in this moment, the strongest check that can be opposed against the violence of their passion, and brutality; a picture, the striking resemblance in which is confirmed to them by that excruciating, and frequently incurable consumption which every hour preys on these miserable victims. This picture, (I say) which is yet often darkened by shades which conceal from their eyes an infinite number of much more shocking consequences, throws them  
into



into a despondency which deprives them of the courage requisite to support them under a long, disgusting and severe course, yet alone capable of administering remedies in their dreadful situation. Others, more resolute, enter on this career, but are soon seized with inconstancy, abandoning every efficacious remedy, they avail themselves of the little strength which they may have recovered, in order to pursue their first horrible practices, in which they perish. Some, (which indeed is uncommon) submit with equal confidence and perseverance to the methods of relief. A radical cure is, at length, the reward of their docility. Others, in spite of an excellent regimen, in spite of the abilities of their physician, no longer find the least salubrity in medicines, but feel themselves condemned, during the short remains of life, to pine through every hour, too happy if the moments of these hours should not be rendered beyond measure afflicting, by those fits of agonizing pain, which are followed by despair and at length terminate in death.

All these threatenings with which it is our duty to pursue the libertines of both sexes, would not be sufficient to inspire them with  
even

even the weakest inclinations to return to the practice of moral, or christian virtue, if much strong reasoning drawn from nature, if a multitude of known experiments, all forcibly confirming this reasoning, did not imprint on their minds, an evidence by which they are convinced, only because it strikes them with terror.

In vain might the multitude of Christian philosophers incessantly cry aloud to them that incontinence, and more particularly *that* incontinence treated of in this work, is absolutely an abominable crime, did not an experienced physician come to their assistance, and convince them, in what manner this crime conducts them to the grave, by ways equally rapid and tormenting.

What numbers of young persons have I observed plunged in these enormities, who, for a long time, have felt the most severe pain, without once suspecting those horrible causes which produced it! how little did they imagine that pastimes, in the course of which they enjoyed such voluptuous sensations, could prove the seeds of anguish and disease. Let them, now, open their eyes; let them see themselves in this mirror, which I present to them;

them: let them learn, let them admire the construction of their being: let them be taught to cherish, and respect the order of their existence; let them avoid every irregularity which can disturb its important harmony; and may my observations inspire them with inexhaustible horror, and aversion from those abominations which impare, dishonor, and, at length destroy them. Let such as are not sufficiently influenced by a sense of religion, to fear the commission of an outrage against the Author and Supreme Master of their lives, be, at least, restrained, by the shocking prospect of those numberless miseries, in which they must, unavoidably, be overwhelmed: these are punishments which they inflict upon themselves, at once acting the desperate part of the executed, and the executioner.



## C H A P. III.

*The causes, and accidents of the Nymphomania.*

**W**Hosoever accurately examines the nature of this morbid passion, will discover in it two accidents, each of which forms a different malady.

It begins by a melancholy *delirium*, the cause of which is in the vice of the *matrix*; it, then, turns to a maniacal delirium, the principle of which is in the disorder of the brain. When these two accidents meet, they form a *Nymphomania*: if, on the contrary, there should exist but one, either the person afflicted will feel, simply, the violent desires of coition, yet without being under a *delirium*, or she will fall into a profound melancholy,  
or

or into a supportable *mania*, without being consumed by ineffectual desires; all which shall be explained in due order.

I shall first mention an immoderate cupidity, as simply venereal. Secondly, an immoderate cupidity, attended with a melancholy *delirium*. Thirdly, an immoderate cupidity, degenerated into a confirmed madness.

An immoderate venereal cupidity in women is usually occasioned by the violent shock of those organs which are their seat of pleasure; in like manner as the violence of hunger, or of thirst depends on the vigorous impression received by the coats of the stomach, or throat.

In women, there are more organs than one, for the purpose of exciting venereal pleasures. First, the *Clitoris* which, according to an universal opinion, is the most exquisite seat of pleasure. It is therefore distinguished by the name of the throne of love. Secondly, all the breadth, and depth of the *vagina*, but especially, at that part which, becoming straiter, joins itself to the *vulva*, and which, at the end, is extremely narrow. Thirdly, the internal face of the *matrix*, which is itself not only extremely sensible of pleasure, but

also solicits the other organs to the enjoyment of it, as the impressions which the ventricle receives from thirst, and hunger, occasion all the organs which depend on it, to desire the sensation of drinking, and eating. As to the rest, what I have remarked concerning the exquisite sensibility of the *matrix*, explains itself by what we observe in animals, the females of which cease to desire from the moment that they are with young. But we may perceive, to the disgrace of humanity, that when the sensibility of the *matrix* is blunted by a fruitful copulation, the woman is by no means the less eager after coition, in like manner as when the stomach is replenished with meats, and the most delicious liquors, the insatiable cupidity of the palate, and the throat for these same meats, and liquors, is not destroyed, but they are swallowed until at length they are disgorged with the most nauseated abhorrence. In this respect, are we a thousand times more beastly than the very beasts, who administer to our excessive abuses.

In the number of the organs of pleasure may be reckoned all the vessels which, in women, are set apart for the secretion of the

*semen,*



*semen*, as each contributes to the increase of the voluptuous sensations. Such are, first, the prostate gland which surrounds the *matrix*, and moistens it copiously with an humor which issues from two *lacunæ*, or little orifices in the superior part of the *vulva*, on the two sides of the *urethra*, underneath the *clitoris*. Secondly, the *Cowperian* glands which are situated in the *perinæum*, between the *vulva*, and the *anus*, and which by a double conduit meet at the insertion of the *vagina*, near the roots of the *carunculæ myrtiformes*. Thirdly, a great number of little glands either separated, or connected, which are distributed about all the *vagina*, from whence it is certain that an humor flows, somewhat glutinous, and not unlike the *semen*. Fourthly, different *lacunæ* which are spread over the internal face of the *vagina*, and which, without any orifice, do nevertheless emit, or rather filtrate a limpid humor, yet in a small quantity.

If these facts (and they cannot reasonably be called in question) should be once admitted, we may absolutely conclude that the organs of women receive much more lively impressions, and are, of course, more

liable to inflammations than the organs of men: this may be proved from three circumstances; first, because the shocks and motions which excite these lively and powerful impressions within the organs, of which we have treated, impressions which stir up sensations, and desires, are much more violent in women, than in men. Secondly, because in these organs is found a disposition sometimes particular, which adds a greater concussion, and more vehemence to the shocks which excite these desires. Thirdly, when by a simultaneous concurrence of one, and the other cause, the impressions strike with more violence on the organs, and when these same organs receive such impressions with more vivacity, from whence it seems to follow, that the sensations and desires ought to be doubly increased. These shocks which inflame, in the sex, the desire of pleasure, may be referred to three principal causes.

First, to an agreeable friction of the organs which is pleasing to the woman, and the sensation of which occasions as far as a certain point, titellations of different kinds, and of different degrees.

Secondly,

Secondly, to soft and delightful tinglings, by which she is sweetly disturbed.

Thirdly, to voluptuous thrillings, by which she is at once agitated, and animated.

It is impossible to determine what kind is necessary, and to what degree, these motions ought to be carried, in order to excite desires. The only decided fact is, that they differ from all the motions of the other appetitive organs.

With regard to the first cause, as it is entirely exterior, we cannot affirm that it gives birth to the *Furor Uterinus*. We must, therefore, seek for the principle of this disease, in the other two causes. In fact, as these tinglings, and these voluptuous thrillings are occasioned by the seminal humors which sprinkle the *vulva*, the *vagina*, and the *matrix*, it may with certainty be affirmed, that the impressions wrought by these overflowings, and these sprinklings, as well of the glands, as of the *lacunæ*, are the nearest causes of this disorder, whether in its principles, or whether in its accidents: for these impressions may be more lively, and, of course, spur on the provocations to pleasure with more vivacity; and this for three reasons: first, if the *semen*, and whatsoever may be called seminal humor should



abound in quantity. Secondly, if they should become vitiated, through too much acrimony. Thirdly, if they should offend at once in abundance, and in acrimony.

First, they will become vitiated through too great a quantity, and first, if the blood which distributes them through the organs should, of itself, be too abundant, which generally happens when the woman is accustomed to pleasure, and high living, but particularly to rich sauces, and spiced meats; for we may take it for granted, that a thousand little indulgences which she allows herself, added to a table luxuriously set out, and at which a delicate appetite may be gratified in every taste, must excite the most voluptuous desires.

This abundance of blood, or *plethora*, is peculiar to women who lead an easy sedentary life, and amongst whom, the perspiration, incapable of establishing itself, of course, leaves them much more blood than is needful to the animal œconomy.

Secondly, if from their conformation, the organs designed by nature for the secretion of the *semen*, should be more ample, and open, a more abundant secretion of the seminal humor

mor must necessarily follow. Thirdly, if from the frequent use of men, or through any other means, they should indulge in the repeated enjoyments of pleasure, the same consequences must arise. It is thus that the milk increases, and multiplies itself in the breasts, as the nipple is sucked. In like manner, the more a person spits, the more the salival glands occasion a copious secretion of the ptyalistic matter.

Secondly, the *semen* offends by an unnatural acrimony in women of a bilious, and atrabilious temperament, and where the sharp and burning blood furnishes a *semen* of the same character. Under these circumstances are they who live on salted, high-seasoned, and smoke-dried meats, who drink rich wines, and strong liquors, and who fill themselves with compound chocolate, and coffee made as powerful as possible. All these articles, in a very singular manner, irritate the blood.(e)

Under

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(e) The *Spanish* chocolate is more compound than any other. Not only musk, ambergrise, and various drugs are mixed with it, but such quantities of cloves, and cinnamon are thrown in, as render it doubly inflammatory. The *Paris* chocolate is somewhat less pernicious. The makers generally use the *Caracca*, which

Under such circumstances, also, are they who pass their lives in continual watchings, and experience the tumultuous workings of an imagination which is incessantly kept alive by a thousand agreeable, or disagreeable chimeras.

Thirdly,

is the best nut, together with a little cinnamon, the freshest vanilla, and the finest sugar. The *English* chocolate, to which only the two last articles are, sometimes, added, is the most plain and innocent: it must not, however, be imagined that it hath no noxious qualities. Let me persuade the fair one of voluptuous passions, that not only chocolate mixed with vanilla, (which is an unctuous, irritating, aromatic fruit,) but even the chocolate made of the simple cacao, will rather kindle, than extinguish the flame. I have pointed out to her the different sorts, that, if too irresolute to avoid them all, she may of three evils chuse the least. The decoctions of coffee are by some physicians, reckoned generally harmless, whilst the extraordinary virtues, and, the ill effects ascribed to this berry, are equally ridiculed. An absurd account of its bad qualities may be seen in the travels of *Olearius*, and it was from this contemptible source alone that *Simon Paulli*, (the first who wrote against the use of it) drew all his prejudices. The narrow compass of a note will not permit me to expatiate on the properties of coffee. I shall, therefore, only observe that much of it, drunk by a person quite unaccustomed to strong liquors, will cause intoxication. A learned friend assured me that the late worthy *Doctor Hunter*, who resided in the north of *England*, and who was,



Thirdly, these two vices, namely the abundance, and the acrimony of the blood, concur together, whensoever the causes which produce them, are found united in the same subject: and it is very certain that if they should not be there found all at a time, they may ordinarily be observed united in a greater number, as their affinity to each other is very strong.

The particular disposition of the organs, in order to feel, and answer in a more lively manner to the shocks which they experience, consists in three circumstances. First, in the tenuity, and delicacy of the nervous fibres,  
by

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was, in all other respects, an exceedingly abstemious man, usually retired, after having emptied, during the evening, about a dozen common cup-fulls of coffee, somewhat inebriated to bed. To remove all doubts (although I scarcely had any) of the possibility of the fact, I tried, (being from long habit, a confirmed water drinker,) the experiment on myself: as, after having finished the ninth dish; I was not, in spite of a very strong constitution, perfectly sober, I thought it would be equally unnecessary and disagreeable to seek from drinking any farther evidence in favor of the anecdote with which my friend had furnished me. If the unbelieving reader can boast that he is as temperate as *Doctor Hunter* was, he may, probably, find at the bottom of a twelfth cup of coffee, an infallible cure for his infidelity. W.

by which it happens that, although in all other respects an equality be maintained, they are moved with more facility, quickness, and force. Secondly, in the greater tension of these fibres, which, the same parity being observed, produces effects similar to those which I have just described. Thirdly, in the simultaneous concurrence whether of the delicacy, or of the extraordinary tension of these little fibres, the result of which is, that these oscillations, constantly observing in all other respects the same quality, are more active, more ready, and more powerful; and this for two reasons.

First, the nervous fibres in women are more delicate, on account of their natural conformation. It is thus, that we perceive some animals endued with more exquisite sensations than others; it is thus, that in the same subject may be observed some parts possessed of a more lively sensibility than the rest. Such was the will of the Great Author of Nature. This delicacy of the fibres may also arise from the preceding and reiterated shocks which they may have experienced, either in a natural commerce with men, or from an artificial irritation of the feminine parts, the use of which

which singularly increases the flexibility, and sensation of the nervous fibres, in like manner as an instrument becomes more attuned, and sends forth more inspiring and agreeable sounds, after having been for a long time played on.

Secondly, these fibres are sometimes under a stronger tension, and, of course, their vibrations are more lively; this is also in the order of the natural conformation. It is by this conformation that the different faculties of sensation are produced in the organs: it is, for this reason, that one person hath a more piercing sight, another a quicker ear, another a stronger power of smelling, &c.

This tension may also sometimes be occasioned by the great dryness which affects the parts, whether proceeding from a natural defect, or caused by some distemper; as for example, an inflammation, and *phlogosis*, which powerfully contract the nervous fibres, and occasion in the natural parts frequent tinglings, and shootings, which render the *semen* extremely acrimonious.

Thirdly, these nervous fibres are more delicate, and more tense, when all the causes of which we have treated, or at least the greater



greater number of them meet in the same subject, and this ought generally to be the case, on account of their close connection. Whensoever these causes concur together, the consequence will be, for two reasons which we have sufficiently explained, that by the violent tension, and delicacy of the fibres, the venereal desires must be rendered more lively, and more frequent.

In short, if it should happen that the two causes which we have mentioned, one of which depends on the acrimony, and abundance of the blood, and the other on the tension, and delicacy of the fibres, were to unite in the same subject, which is almost constantly the case on account of their close affinity, the result would be that, on the one hand, the fibres of the parts, or of the organs must be more powerfully and sensibly affected by the abundance and acrimony of the *semen*; and, on the other hand, that the motions and shocks would be more forcibly received; because the fibres increasing in tenuity, and in tension, their vibration becomes much more sensible, from whence it is easy to conclude, that the sensation and desires of pleasure must be doubly augmented. But, should these

these united shocks disturb the fibres of the brain, a more, or less raging *delirium* must ensue, according to the increased, or mitigated violence of the concussion, or in proportion to its being more, or less habitual. The fatal gradations of it shall be examined in the sequel of this work.

CHAP. IV.

The signs and symptoms of the disease.

FROM what hath been already advanced it may reasonably be concluded that there is no malady, of which the gradations are more rapid, and violent, or the symptoms of which remain a longer time concealed, at least during its first stages, and even when it hath attained to a certain degree of malignity. When it is that the piercing and enduring of some experienced practitioner, whose observation nothing can elude, must be fixed on every mark of this disorder: it is only such a man who, notwithstanding the risk of being dangerous in the wound, knows

P. A. P.

## CHAP. IV.

*The degrees and symptoms of the FUROR  
UTERINUS.*

**F**ROM what hath been already advanced, it may reasonably be concluded that there is no malady, of which the gradations are more rapid, and violent, or the symptoms of which remain a longer time concealed, at least during its first stages, and even when it hath attained to a certain degree of malignity. Then it is that the piercing and enquiring eye of some experienced practitioner, whose observation nothing can escape, must be fixed on every mark of this distemper: it is only such a man who, notwithstanding the little appearance of danger in the wound, knows, whilst



whilst he at once conceives the necessity of such a proceeding, how to prove, with equal resolution, and ability, the fistulous sinuses, as well as to penetrate the purulent cavities which might not even have been thought of, by another.

Although the *Furor Uterinus* be a morbid passion which is tolerably constant as to its symptoms in the different subjects where it occurs, it nevertheless undergoes variations, which, if not essential, are at least accidental, and the knowledge of which is of some consequence, in order that this malady may be exactly traced through its several degrees, I shall therefore treat of it, first, in its beginning, secondly, in its confirmed stage, and thirdly, in its desperate stage.

In the first state, reason still remains in the full possession of all her privileges; virtue is still capable of fixing a thousand stings within the conscience of the guilty; the lasciviousness glowing in the imagination must as yet struggle against those impressions of modesty and honor which excite a resolution to rise in opposition to its malignity; at least, if the passion be submitted to, the utmost care is taken to conceal it under the impenetrable

veil of mystery. In this situation, the good principles which the moment of brutality had in vain endeavored to suppress, will be awakened by continual remorse, and the repenting sufferer will recollect herself, and reassume her former tranquility. Whatever obstacles she may have to contend against, should she retain the power of adhering to this reasoning: *it is neither permitted nor honorable that I should yield to so shameful a passion*, and should she keep in view this virtuous maxim, she may, for a long time, and perhaps always, resist the violence of her desires. She will be able to extricate herself with more ease from the first consequences of this dreadful malady, should her fibres have received less violent shocks; and this will be the case, first, should she be so organized as to be endued with a weaker degree of sensibility; secondly, should she be so happy as to fall into a refreshing sleep which might restore these fibres to the calm which they enjoyed previous to their tension; thirdly, if neither her nourishment, nor her manner of living should be at all irritating; fourthly, should the seeds of a good education be kept alive by virtuous examples; fifthly,

fifthly, should she be able to flee from all objects capable of exciting these vibrations; sixthly, should she in time make use of anodynes, and cooling medicines.

But, if after having long struggled against the violence of her passion, she should employ the powers of her mind, in pursuit of reasons which might invalidate the truth, and propriety of the maxim which we have just established; should she be of a temperament naturally inflammable; should she search without precaution for objects which must reduce her to this distemper; should she abandon herself to an indolent, sensual, and voluptuous life; should she conceive an aversion from those fortunate examples which might recall her to a love of virtue; should she, instead of having recourse to such assuaging drinks as might soften the acrimony of the humours, fly to wine, and spirituous liquors; and should she be deprived of sleep, soon the reiterated shocks of the fibres of the organs must occasion in the fibres of the brain, a tension, or rather a pressure which would prove the cause of madness. In this situation, the malady must be esteemed confirmed; for the afflicted person no longer views any



objects with the same eyes. Her mind, and her heart take quite a different turn; she enjoys without disquiet, and without remorse, every thing whatsoever, which before, whether present, or even thought of, produced a thousand horrors in her soul; she can then ask herself, *what can be so delightful as to give a loose to amorous desires?* the melancholy *delirium* may now be said to have seized her, and we shall perceive her passing with pleasure from the first to the second stage, and rapturously approaching the arms of death, thrown open to receive her, in the third stage, to which she advances with hasty strides.

Nevertheless, in this second stage, the little natural consonance of the fibres is not always certain. It may vary from several natural, and artificial causes.

First, this violent cupidity may of itself be checked by a number of accidents, which it might be too tedious to particularize in this place.

Secondly, the repose of sleep procured by emulsions, and narcotics, and sometimes arising even from the necessity of nature, may moderate the precipitate motions of the fibres.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, anodynes alone, properly administered, may relax them.

Fourthly, the great heat of the blood may be tempered by venesections, and refrigeratives.

Fifthly, advice, reproaches, and, when gentle means prove unsuccessful, corrections may sometimes bring back the unhappy criminal to her duty.

From all this, we may observe that the second stage is still susceptible of variations, of relief, and of a cure; the success of the different applications will soon appear from the carriage, the conversation, and the whole conduct of the patient.

It is, however, difficult to describe with what facility, and precipitation, the progression is made from the second, to the third stage, in which the disorder must be considered as desperate. In this state, its duration hath wrought in the fibres an entire alteration of the tones. The ideas are acted upon by absolutely different representations, which occasion the heart, and mind of the person afflicted, to adhere to a second proposition, contradictory to the first; so that instead of feeling, at least by short intervals, some ap-  

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prehensions

prehensions at the sight of danger, she sinks into a state of perfect reconciliation with the powers of her body, and soul, and resolves to maintain that nothing is so honorable, so natural, and so allowable as to yield herself up to all the pleasures of the senses.

In this shocking state, it is highly requisite to remark the different positions of the fibres, as consonant to, or dissonant from the first proposition. These fibres, as I have already observed, change their tone, with a quantity of others which violently excite venereal desires; so that the fibres which were before at dissonance, do perfectly accord, whilst there is an absolute discord amongst those which were in unison. It is from this general overthrow of all their relations to each other, that a *delirium* arises to destroy the order of ideas, and impels the person afflicted to affirm what she hath denied, and to deny what she hath affirmed. This *delirium* varying, and increasing to an infinite degree, soon unites with a species of fury; so that the unhappy fair one, wandering from the path of sound reason, and continually excited by the vehement emotions of her mind, flies, with the most enraged frenzy, against all who venture



to oppose the gratification of her desires; and this is precisely the real maniacal *delirium*.

Where shall that rash woman be found, who, after having read these alarming truths, which the interests of humanity compel me to unfold, will not shudder, when she considers the abominable situation into which she may be driven, at her first entrance into the paths of lust?

It is to be observed that the maniacal *delirium*, how considerable soever it may be, is not universally alike; it is frequently excited only by some particular objects which inflame the ardor of pleasure. For this reason, the first attacks of this disorder should not always be considered as symptoms peculiar to a *mania*, since they also belong to those accidents resulting from a melancholy *delirium*; we shall, therefore, call this first state, the *Deutero-pathic Mania*, and the second state, in which the fits are more violent, and more general, the *Protopathic Mania*. It would be needless to expatiate on this subject, and, particularly, as it would, unavoidably, lead us into a tedious digression concerning the parts of the head, an anatomical knowledge of which is of no great consequence in the application of pre-

scriptions for the cure of the *Furor Uterinus*, which is the principal object of our attention. It will be sufficient to know that the continuity, and shocks of the fibres in the organical parts, infallibly produce a tension, and a pressure in the fibres of the head, which cause a *delirium*; that this *delirium* in some is universal, and in others, is excited only by particular circumstances; so that in whatsoever light we consider it, we can scarcely entertain the least hope that it will admit of a cure.

We shall distinguish this *furor* by its different causes.

First, the cause which proceeds from too great an abundance of the *semen*, or from a considerable acrimony, or rather from too great an abundance, and an acrimony of the *semen* united.

Secondly, the cause which arises from a vice in the nervous fibres of the organical parts, which receive more lively impressions, either on account of their delicacy, or of their tension, or on account of their delicacy, and their tension united, which is the reason why they enjoy a much more exquisite sensibility.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, the cause which is produced by a vice in the *semen*, and by a vice in the organical parts; for, in this case, the malady is, by the re-union of simple causes, doubly extended.

We shall also divide it into its symptomatic relations: and, first, into a *Furor Uterinus* without a *delirium*, and such as we have described it, in the first period of this malady; secondly, into the *Furor Uterinus*, with the melancholy *delirium*, as hath been sufficiently explained in this, and the preceding chapters; thirdly, into a maniacal *Furor*.

From this division, and all which we have hitherto observed, it is easy to conceive that the symptoms must differ according to the several degrees of the distemper; yet it cannot be doubted that there are general symptoms which equally belong to all the afflicted, and to the different degrees of the distemper. I shall, therefore, divide them into common symptoms, and into proper symptoms. The common symptoms are an itching, and a kind of shooting felt in the part of the *vagina*, and of the *matrix*, which are continually irritated by the acrimony of the *semen*, which throws them into an *erethismus*,  
from



from whence proceeds that violent contraction which dries up all the vessels designed to moisten the parts; from hence also proceeds the slowness in the return of the blood, which brings on a *phlogosis*, which hath frequently been observed in the dead bodies of *metromaniacs*. This *phlogosis* is not always a simple symptom of this distemper; it may also very often be the cause of it.

Secondly, a violent burning, and aridity in the parts; the consequence of which is, that the partitions, or tunics of the *matrix* being dried up, the organs are incessantly open to receive the impressions of the air. This also hath frequently been observed at the dissection of the bodies.

Thirdly, the *clitoris* is usually swelled, and larger than in discreet women.

Fourthly, one of the *ovaria*, or even both are puffed up with a viscous, purulent, and thick humor, and filled with little *ova*, the form of which exceeds the natural form. The trunks are also infected with this matter, as appeared from remarks made on opening the diseased.

Fifthly, a virulent flux generally accompanies these other symptoms, whether it be  
that

that the interior part of the *vagina* having been frequently irritated by self-pollution, distils a thick, and viscous *sanies*, or whether this *sanies* proceeds from some fistulous ulcer of the *vagina*, or of the *matrix*.

Exclusive of these common symptoms, there are proper symptoms, in the different stages of the disorder. Thus, in the first stage, the afflicted fall a prey to flames which, superior to any resistance, incessantly burn within them. These flames, the turpitude of which they feel, pursue them every where. They become troubled, solitary, sad, pensive, silent, and studiously avoid the society of their companions. Nothing so powerfully affects them as the obscene thoughts with which their minds are pre-engaged ; for these, they lose hunger, thirst, and sleep, and scarcely pay the slightest attention to their natural wants, lest they should, for a moment, be withdrawn from objects which disquiet them. They fall into such lively, and deep meditations, that the salacious, and lewd ideas by which the fibres of the brain are continually fatigued, occasion oscillations, and a tension which absolutely rob them of the use of sleep.

They

They enjoy some fortunate intervals, during which the flagrancy of their desires strikes them with horror. They, sometimes, endeavor to turn back into the path of chastity; but they more frequently employ themselves in attempting to discover means which may preclude every person from a knowledge of their situation. They even hope to conceal it from those who are the cause of it. But how vain is resolution, and how ineffectual are efforts, when weakness is the source of them.

The perusal of a novel, a voluptuous picture, a lascivious song, the conversation, and the carresses of some seducing man, soon excite those emotions, of which but the moment before, she deemed herself the mistress, and imagined that she could, perpetually, have suppressed them.

It must, however be granted, that this first stage admits of intervals sufficiently long to afford time for the cure of the diseased. Yet, let not even the real tranquility, which they appear to enjoy, be too firmly relied on. It is but an half-extinguished fire, which will blaze out, on the first opportunity, with a fury too violent to be subdued. On the contrary,



trary, let us profit by those precious moments, for which we are, sometimes, indebted to a critical, and plentiful evacuation; sometimes to bleedings, and those prophylactic medicines which a physician may have thought proper to prescribe; at other times, to a regimen which particular seasons and places introduce; and at other times, to a fall, which indispensably requires remedies, rest, and as exact a diet as if the business were to accomplish the cure of the most malignant interior malady. Let us, therefore, avail ourselves of these favorable moments, and restore a calm to this little world, in which storms and tempests have occasioned such horrible disorders. Let us remove the fair sufferer from every object capable of rekindling the flames. Confine her, during a long time, to a moist, temperate, and cooling regimen. Indulge her with amusements suitable to all her innocent inclinations, and vary her engagements, in such a manner that none may seem tedious to her. Contrive that every little labor may as much exact from her the invention of the mind, as the dexterity of the hands. For, how many employments may she from custom go through, which leave the

the mind, and heart at full leisure to attend to those which are the most pernicious!

In the second stage, the fibres of the brain are so fatigued by contests with the imagination, that they begin to change their tone. Then, the images, which could not appear, but with the most revolting turpitude, find an easier, and less disturbed access. A *delirium* and sadness seize on the miserable sufferer; she thinks it equally difficult and distressful to remain always in arms against the pleasures of the senses; she harbours doubts concerning the truth of that maxim, to which we have already alluded, and ransacks her mind and heart for reasons wherewith to condemn the severity of it, and to justify the contradictory proposition, as suggesting nothing unbecoming. At one moment, she condemns herself, and shudders at her situation; at another moment, she weighs the advantages of an entirely voluptuous life, against those of a discreet and decent conduct. She sinks into a deep melancholy, her powers fail, her virtue perishes, a luxurious inclination, and all the lascivious images which accompany it, stifle remorse, and seize upon her whole mind. To compleat the  
shameful

shameful victory, impudence assumes the place of modesty.

Instead of contending against desires, she seeks only to multiply, and to glut them. It is not in the power of the senses to administer enough to satiate her shocking cupidity. All who can add fuel to this burning passion, become her tutelary gods, to whom, she, now, without a blush, presents her incense.

During this deplorable state, the meanest man is, in her eye, an interesting personage. She draws him to her by a thousand means too tedious to describe; she caresses, she solicits, she beseeches him; and when her flatteries have not succeeded, she, without scruple, employs threats to force him to satisfy her brutality. It is then, that the fibres of the brain are so totally unstrung, that their dissonance is turned into perfect accord, and that the unhappy victim no longer feels a difficulty in persuading herself that she is at length permitted to obey her passions, and that she may utter, and commit every extravagance, to which so shameful an error can reduce her.

In the third stage, this melancholy turns to a *mania*, or *furor*. Then, the mind is absolutely



solutely distracted, particularly when venery is the subject; she continually practises the most disgusting obscenities: with the hopes of enjoying them, she perpetually solicits, presses, and pursues every man she meets, whether known or unknown. If resisted, she seizes them, and, in a frenzy, beats, and wounds them. There are other symptoms usually attendant on every venereal *mania*, and these are an *insomnia*, or wakefulness; a want of appetite, and thirst, in spite of the great necessity there is for eating, and drinking; a burning heat throughout all the body, yet no fever; an insensibility to the most piercing cold; costiveness; the urine thick, of a purple colour, and in small quantities.

Then it is that those terrible accidents, which there is a possibility of sometimes preventing in the first and second stage of the disease, infallibly present themselves; such as tumors, imposthumes, *bydatides*, abscesses, a flux attended with a fetid purulence, the *phlogosis* of the *matrix*, and all the neighbouring parts, besides many other accidents, the enumeration of which would be of no  
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assistance in communicating a knowledge of this desperate situation, which, unfortunately for these wretched objects, reveals itself by too evident a malignity.

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C H A P. V.

*The diagnostic signs of the FUROR UTERINUS, and the prognostics to be drawn from them.*

**I**T is not so easy as it may be imagined to discover, at the first inspection, the state of this malady, or even to pronounce upon its existence. Were all the symptoms which we have particularized, to be found united in the same subject, it might be possible for a physician to determine at one glance, not only that the distemper subsists, but also that it is arrived at such, or such a stage; and in this situation, there could be no reason to hesitate about the choice of the means requisite to effect a cure. But a melancholy experience hath informed us, that there is no state in

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which

which the diseased can so artfully dissemble, nor any malady which of itself throws so many equivocal appearances in the way of our examinations. On this account, I could not censure the conduct of some physicians (whom I succeeded) in the treatment of patients of this kind, although these gentlemen had, during a long time, prescribed for them, without suspecting the nature of their disorder. As they succeeded in imposing on those, by whom they were attended, before, they flattered themselves that their designs against me would be equally fortunate, and assured me, in advance, that I should be no more able to procure them relief, than were my predecessors.

This then, is the first, and at the same time, the greatest obstacle that I know of, to the discovery of the *Furor Uterinus*; it is the turpitude of the causes which have produced it, concerning which, the afflicted person will preserve the most obstinate silence, until she may have fallen into those maniacal accidents which discover it; that is to say, until she be plunged into that shocking situation, in which she no longer remains susceptible of a cure. The second obstacle, which I  
have



have taken notice of, is not less considerable. It proceeds from the equivocal appearance of even the most evident symptoms. I should suppose that the organical parts being in the most terrible state, the patient, attacked by sharp shooting pains, feels herself forced in spite of all her evasions to discover the seat of her disease; the physician, after the most judicious examination of the accidents which exist, would not yet be able to form any certain prognostic; for, as these accidents are common to the *lues venerea*, would they be rather attributed to the *metromania*, than to an impure and temporary commerce, which might have produced them, whilst succeeding negligence might have carried them to these dreadful extremities? certainly, the patient having once resolved to dissemble, will be more inclined to accuse herself of a momentary fault, than to acknowledge that she lives in an habitual state of infamy; her deceit will also be the more artful, as her weakness occasioned by pain, and the operations of the medicines must have impaired the vivacity of her passions, or at least have checked the exterior demonstrations of them. To prove the truth of what I advance, it is

only necessary to examine the nature of these accidents in the organical parts. Such is a fetid and purulent efflux.

In whatsoever light we may consider this efflux, we can never imagine it to be an instance of the existence of the *metromania*; for either it proceeds from the bladder, by the canal of the *urethra*, or from the *matrix* by the *vagina*, or in short, from the prostate, and all the other kinds of glands. In the first case, this efflux may be attributed to the ulcers of the reins, or of the bladder; in the second case, it may be determined that the *matrix* is inflamed and ulcerated; and in the third case, there can be no doubt but that a very corrosive *virus* must have eaten into the orifices of the glands. But these vices in the reins, and in the bladder, in the *matrix*, and in the glands, not being absolutely proper to a *metromania*, the point must still remain doubtful. Indeed, if the patient should have no power over those exterior demonstrations, which, by manifesting the disorders of the mind, reveal at the same time the cause of the malady in the body, there can be no difficulty in forming a judgment of the case.

Thus,

Thus, in the first stage, these several points are to be enquired into.

First, whether the patient feels some inclination, in the gratification of which she is constrained.

Secondly, whether this inclination be the sole cause of her languor.

Thirdly, whether, on the contrary, from a vice in her temperament, she be susceptible of a tender passion, in favor of the first man who may present himself.

Fourthly, whether she be not accustomed to satisfy her own desires, by habitual self-pollution.

Fifthly, If the *menfes* be more or less abundant.

Sixthly, if she be burning, indolent, silent, and averse from those parties of pleasure, of which well-regulated young females are usually fond.

It is not necessary that all these signs should be found united, in order to afford a cause for suspecting that the distemper is beginning to appear. The physician must now use all his endeavors to obtain the confidence of his patient.



He must be cautious of discovering that he understands the nature of her disorder, lest he should not only meet with a repulse from her, but throw her into an insurmountable distrust of him. He must sound her inclinations with equal gentleness, and art. In short, he must employ every possible and agreeable stratagem, in order to gain her good opinion, and become the master of all her secrets.

At first, he must flatter her weakness; by little and little he must infuse into her mind some idea of her danger, and, at length, he must, insensibly, teach her to reflect upon it, with horror. His remedies, supported by his counsels, and some precautions taken by her parents, who may be informed of her situation, should they be so prudent as not to render such a discovery detrimental to the physician, and his patient, will, in concert, lay the foundation of a cure, at once speedy and certain.

It is more easy to discover the second stage of this disorder. For, in spite of all dissimulation, there are moments, during which the patient shews herself, such as she really is. Besides, a singular character, if not of  
lasci-

lasciviousness, at least of libertinism, may be observed in her actions, and conversation. Her melancholy assumes a more gloomy cast, her advances towards all flattering objects become more imprudent; if any accidents subsist in the organical parts, they are more malignant, and violent; a burning heat which consumes her, her aversion from meat, and drink, her insensibility to cold, her forced retirement from all sober company, and the vehement indecency with which she yields herself up to those who please her, too fully prove that the disorder hath already made some progress, and that not a moment is to be lost, in recurring to the means of stopping it.

The third period is attended with such evident signs that even the least experienced practitioner cannot mistake them. But the reader need only recollect what hath been observed concerning these symptoms, in the preceding chapter.

*Prognostic.* The *Metromania*, or *Furor Uterinus* is an opprobrious, and horrible distemper; disgrace and infamy alight not only on the wretch who is attacked by it, but on

parents who lament the hour in which their child was born.

It may be asserted that it is always difficult to cure, and generally subject to a relapse, in the very moment, when it is least expected. The more inveterate it is, the more it baffles the power of remedies.

It is, for this reason, that in order to form a prognostic of it, we must carefully attend to its different stages, and to the several degrees of each stage.

In the first stage, I distinguish three degrees.

First, when the distemper is absolutely just beginning; then, with very few precautions, and a small quantity of *long continued* remedies, a cure may be relied on.

Secondly, when the distemper hath already taken some root; when the imagination hath been fatigued by lascivious representations; when the fibres of the organs have suffered reiterated tensions; and yet, when the patient, without much struggle reflects upon her situation and conduct with horror: under these circumstances, with more precautions, and with more multiplied, and *longer continued* remedies, we may depend upon a cure.

Thirdly,



Thirdly, when by the reiterated shock of of the fibres, the lascivious representations fix so striking an impression on the patient, that she begins to fear the opposition of her chaster sentiments, which must condemn the wild disorder reigning within her heart; and when, she turns her eyes aside from that abyss, the depth of which she still is ignorant of, we may conclude that the malady is extremely dangerous, although but in its first stage.

It is, on this account, that too much attention cannot be paid to the conduct of the youthful part of the fair sex, nor, when the slightest symptoms relating to this disorder is perceived, should any time be lost in the pursuit of that method, and the application of those remedies, which I shall mention in the next chapter. There is no other malady which can require more instant relief, or which so forcibly reminds us of the ancient proverb:

“ *Principiis obsta; sero medicina paratur,*

“ *Cum mala per longas invaluere moras.*”

In the second period, I distinguish two degrees. First, the *delirium*, in the beginning,  
hath

hath not acquired its full strength, and is subject to intermissions which are, sometimes, sufficiently long to afford leisure for the introduction of serviceable prescriptions. Under these circumstances, there is reason to hope that the malady may not be incurable. Secondly, when the melancholy *delirium* is almost continual, or when its intervals are very short. In this case, the only prognostic which can be formed, is beyond measure alarming.

It would, however, be extremely imprudent, if, even here, we should abandon hope. With every reason to suppose it improbable that the malady could have been surmounted, I have observed some instances of astonishing cures; but these, indeed, resulted from equally extraordinary events, at no period to be relied on, although the possibility of them might be sufficient to flatter the expectations of those who are interested in them.

The third stage only offers the most disheartening prognostic. The hopes of recalling the patient to any modest principle, are entirely lost, as she is, now, deprived of reason. Besides, all the organical parts are eaten away by abscesses, and incurable ulcers. The *matrix*, and even the *ovaria*, are often infected

infected with scirrhus, and cancerous tumours: in this deplorable situation, death is her sole resource, and she may be deemed fortunate, should she, instead of raging under this *furor*, sink into an insensible, helpless idiotism, and thus avoid those shocking miseries to which maniacs are exposed.

Incurable as this state may be, we must not, on any account, abandon the patient to her unhappy fate. To the very conclusion of all, we must assuage her torments, by those means which humanity, and the knowledge of nature may suggest to us.

I must also observe that when the *Furor Uterinus* is still susceptible of a cure, it may disappear of itself, and without the assistance of remedies. I shall beg leave to exemplify the truth of this remark, by the following relation.

A young lady, of *Lyons*, whom I shall name *Lucilla*, had received a virtuous and accomplished education. In her sixteenth year, she had the misfortune to lose her mother, when an old aunt took her out of the convent, in which, from the age of nine, she had been brought up. Scarcely had she acquired some little influence over her relation, when she  
intreated



intreated her to augment her family, by the addition of another man-servant. She had often spoken to her concerning a lacquey, possessed of a thousand good qualities, who lived with the lady-abbess. In fact, during the visit which the aunt made her niece, she had observed in this youth, an alertness, and decency, not very common amongst the domestics of nuns, and monks.

The aunt frequently represented to her niece, that such a step was almost impracticable; that it would be extremely ungenteeled to entice away a servant from the lady abbess; and no very grateful return to the care which she had taken of her infancy. These arguments had little weight with *Lucilla*; she was too dissatisfied to avoid a renewal of her solicitations, and made fresh attempts to induce her aunt to favour her request. The aunt continued still resolved to persist in her refusal, and added that, exclusive of so rude a proceeding, she foresaw one obstacle which could not be surmounted. “*I am persuaded*” (said she to her niece) “*that you bear too tender a concern in every thing which relates to me, to exact from me a compliance which would most probably deprive me of one of the*”  
“*best*”

“ *best servants in the world. GERMAINE has*  
 “ *been ten years in my family; he is faithful,*  
 “ *sensible, and possessed of many good qualities;*  
 “ *yet with all these, he cannot bear that there*  
 “ *should be any footman in the house, besides him-*  
 “ *self; I am convinced that it is not in his na-*  
 “ *ture to agree with a fellow-servant; he, not-*  
 “ *withstanding, makes amends for this caprice,*  
 “ *by doing more work than would be executed by*  
 “ *a dozen of the common sort. I know already*  
 “ *that were I to consent to your inclinations, I*  
 “ *should be obliged to send away GERMAINE.*”

Lucilla had, hitherto, done justice to the merit of Germaine; but when she considered him as excluding her from the company of her dear Ianot, (this was the name of the lacquey belonging to the convent) she forgot those excellent qualities which entitled an old domestic to her good opinion. The chocolate, and the coffee, if presented by him, were detestable; his messages were improperly delivered; his manner of entering into the room was too free; his answers were impertinent; his questions were unbecomingly familiar; his carriage was indecent; and every step he took in the apartment was clownish, and offensive. In how short a time, was all his

his commendable behaviour succeeded by a multitude of faults.

*Lucilla* sinks at once into a melancholy, which she, for a great while, attributes to a decline in her health; she no longer accompanies her aunt to any of her parties; she flies from society; she never quits her chamber until the hour of dinner, and even then, dines not; in the afternoon, she retires to her room, and, to avoid interruption, pretends to have the head-ache: pious and instructive books throw her into the vapours; she can only read the *Paysan parvenu*, (f) or other works of this nature, which impart venom to the poison working within her veins, and add fuel to the flame, which burns but to consume her: hopes at once dangerous, and absurd are, by these writings, instilled into her mind, and all her thoughts are fixed on sensuality.

It

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(f) A man of virtue, who turns author, and corrupts his readers, will always be an inconsistent, but yet a common character. The dangerous pictures in the work so justly censured by *Mr. de Bienville*, were given to the world, by *Mr. de Marivaux*, a modest, quiet, candid, and disinterested *Frenchman*. As this writer (who died in 1763) observed to the famous lord Bolingbroke, who, although an infidel, in points of the most solemn consequence, was credulous to an extreme, in



It is now supper time ; and this is to *Lucilla* a fresh misfortune ; she cannot bear to sit at the table ; the visitors are uneasy, and intreat her to come down ; but her head-ache is increased. Thus, she daily pleads the like excuses, in order to withdraw herself from every subject of dissipation. The summer comes on, the physician recommends a change of air, and *Lucilla* sets off, with her aunt, for their country house, which is in the neighbourhood of the convent. They are impatient to wait on the lady-abbess : the unfortunate *Germaine*, at once, steward, butler, *valet de chambre*, footman, and postilion, overturns the carriage. What a lucky accident ! the only topic of conversation at the tea-table is the awkwardness of *Germaine*. The lady-abbess, whom *Ianot* had frequently driven

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in trifles ; if you disbelieve, it is not for want of faith : so it may be said of him ; if he was a stranger to vice, it was not because he never taught the practice of it. I have often wished, (since novels will be read,) that other *Juliet Grenvilles* might arise, and that this species of composition, no longer perverted to the worst purposes, by an abandoned race of scribblers, might be monopolized by the men of genius who have abilities, and inclinations to make (in the words of a celebrated writer) the passions move at the command of virtue. W.

driven about the grounds, belonging to the abbey, takes notice of the rugged roads, and difficult quarterings through which he had conducted her with safety. "*Ab! madam,*" (cried *Lucilla* to the abbess,) "*suffer my aunt to take IANOT for her postilion, or else I cannot have the honour of seeing you any more. I would give up all thoughts of ever leaving the castle, rather than once trust myself to the care of GERMAINE.*" . . . . But this matter is less likely to be settled than ever. *Ianot* falls sick; he is confined to his bed, and in two days a fever, attended with a pleurisy, puts a period to his life. *Lucilla* becomes inconsolable for the loss; her melancholy, which her aunt had hopes of dissipating, by indulging her with the amusements of the country, is now redoubled. The image of *Ianot* incessantly presents itself to her disordered imagination. All the heroes of romance seem to her, as nothing in comparison of what *Ianot* would have proved, had he not been cut off in the flower of his age. *Lucilla*, extended within the thick recesses of a grove, upon a bank which over-arched a rivulet, the plaintive murmurings of which amused her melancholy, and pleasingly supplied the place of noisy

noisy interruptions, neither saw, nor heard any one, except her dear *Ianot*. She frequently addressed him, in these terms: "*then,*  
 "*O my beloved Ianot! thou art a lifeless corpse!*  
 "*alas! is it possible that the abandoned Lisetta*  
 "*can have been the cause of thy death, and*  
 "*of all my disgrace? Yes! it is from that bar-*  
 "*barian, it is from those dalliances so frequent-*  
 "*ly repeated with her, that I have been taught*  
 "*by a representation of pleasures, what pleasures*  
 "*I might have expected from thee! O fatal cu-*  
 "*riosity, which now breaks into the whole re-*  
 "*pose of my life! O cruel chance, which di-*  
 "*rected me to the only part of the convent, from*  
 "*whence I could, unseen, and unsuspected by*  
 "*any one, be a witness to your artless, and ten-*  
 "*der expressions, to your lively, and repeated*  
 "*embraces, to your delicious caresses! ah! how*  
 "*did I detest Lisetta! how wish to rob her*  
 "*of her joys! O desperate resolution! thus, to*  
 "*persist, in spite of all my jealousy and rage*  
 "*against the too happy, the unresisting Lisetta,*  
 "*in gazing on your voluptuous transports!"*

"*What now remains of this remembrance,*  
 "*and of the hope which I had conceived that I*  
 "*should, one day, be the only object of the care*  
 "*and tenderness of the unfortunate Ianot. My*



“ very soul is devoured by a thousand desires,  
“ which nothing is capable of moderating! the  
“ fire of the most terrible fever is a thousand  
“ times less violent than that which burns with-  
“ in my bosom! every circumstance displeases,  
“ and afflicts me.”

“ When, seduced by the illusions of the ima-  
“ gination, I, for a moment, fix my eyes on the  
“ captivating figure of Ianot, soon the recol-  
“ lection of his death replunges me into all the  
“ horrors of despair. Ah! miserable that I  
“ am! . . . . . Why, then, do I rivet my at-  
“ tention on an incorporeal shade? Was he the  
“ only youth from whose embraces, the ecstasies  
“ of which I form such passionate ideas of the  
“ gifts of love could be received? Wherefore  
“ should I avoid the company of the Chevalier  
“ dû Lys? He is neither so handsome, nor so  
“ well made as Ianot; but his education has  
“ supplied him with graces, of which Ianot  
“ never was possessed; of which Ianot never  
“ could have been possessed.” . . . . . The de-  
sires of Lucilla are now fixed on the Chevalier  
dû Lys; he receives her obliging assiduities  
with the cold politeness, and disinterested  
respect peculiar to an amiable man, who either  
is no lover, or hath given his heart to another.

Be

Be this as it will, the vicinity of the castle belonging to the *chevalier* gives him frequent opportunities of seeing *Lucilla*, who, glowing with desire, is vext to find the object of her flame unmoved. How astonished is the *chevalier* at perceiving *Lucilla* enter the chamber, before his hour of rising? he offers to quit the bed, but she prevents him; he expresses himself ashamed of being discovered in such an indecent situation; his body concealed, (as the weather was intolerably hot) only by a thin sheet. She, not sensible that any thing is improper, surveys him, in this undress, with eyes full of fire, assures him that he might be obliged to her for taking him by surprize, and that this will not be the last opportunity which she shall embrace of teaching him to awake sooner. . . The *chevalier* returns a civil, but confused, forbidding answer; she, now, attempts to raise his passions by lascivious arts; she nestles to him, and, in the lubricity of her motions, reveals her wishes; to every wanton lure, she adds the most voluptuous words, nor hesitates to throw aside the veil intended to conceal those female charms, on which it must be difficult to gaze without desire. He, at last, breaks loose,

puts on his night gown, rings the bell, and, in the most decent tone of voice, thanks *Lucilla* for the agreeable surprize into which she has thrown him; he concludes by ordering the servant to prepare breakfast for her; but she refuses to accept of any, and returns disconcerted, and exasperated at the insensibility with which he received her advances. Yet still she flatters herself that, on a future occasion, the chevalier will prove less timid; she reviews her own conduct; at one moment, she blushes at her imprudence; at another moment, she approves the freedom of her actions; this first indecent step, now, inspires her with a determination to repeat it; she hopes that, at her next attack, she shall be more successful. She returns home, and discovers that the family know nothing of her having been abroad; she rejoices at the prospect of being still able to renew her visits, and always with the same secrecy. Her melancholy seems more dissipated, whilst her aunt, who sees, and congratulates her on the alteration, continues ignorant of the cause of it. In the evening, *Lucilla* informs her of her inclinations to dine the next day, with the *chevalier*; the proposal is thought extraordinary,



nary, yet as it indicates a livelier change in the disposition of her niece, the aunt is eager to embrace it: a card is immediately dispatched to the castle; but the unfortunate *Lucilla* was born for disappointments: The *chevalier* had just before received orders to join his regiment. He is gone to *Lyons* to prepare every thing for his departure, and will not return to his seat, as the baggage, necessary to be sent to him, is already packed up. As well might the *chevalier* have put every thing in readiness for his journey, at the castle, as at *Lyons*, if he had felt an inclination to remain a moment on the spot, but he had, sometimes, undesignedly wandered towards that quarter of the grove, in which the melancholy *Lucilla* had chosen to conceal herself. He had heard her sighs, and was no stranger to the nature of her complaints, although ignorant that the result of them was a determination to attempt the conquest of his heart. The last affair had, however, so fully convinced him of the situation of *Lucilla*, that fearful of being drawn into connections with her, which might place him in a light equally ridiculous, and contemptible, he was happy in seizing the opportunity of avoiding such

perplexing interviews, and of depriving her of the power of committing such unseemly indiscretions. But the remedy was more violent than he imagined.

Little did *Lucilla* suppose that the *chevalier* had absented himself on purpose; a thousand times, she cursed her destiny, and at length fell a prey to the bitterest uneasiness. If she spoke, it was to desire some intelligence of the *chevalier*; she daringly mentioned him with the most unrestrained, and frequently lascivious encomiums; then, suddenly recollecting herself, she fell into a deep silence which nothing was capable of interrupting. Soon, her lips became livid, her eyes sunk, and wild, her face pale, and even disfigured, and her whole body emaciated to such a shocking degree, that all who remarked the too sensible progress of her miseries, were in apprehension for her life. The fear of being unable to procure, in the country, the assistance due to so dangerous a situation, determined the aunt to conduct her immediately to *Lyons*.

The physicians are consulted; they find a burning body, yet no fever, the extreme paleness of the complexion seems to indicate  
a sup-

a suppression of the *menses*, but that (she assures them) is not the cause of her disorder: a general disgust which she conceives against all kinds of food induce them to imagine that the vice is in the stomach.

Is it debility? is it heat? or, is it tension? On these points, the physicians are divided; they order her to avoid watching; but she devotes one part of the night to her book, and employs the other part in revolving in her imagination the passages which she hath read; jelly-broths, or rather the quintessences of juice are prescribed for her; but her body becomes more heated, and enflamed, whilst the stomach remains equally indisposed. The rest of the summer is taken up with useless applications, on the part of the physicians, and multiplied accidents, on the part of the patient. All on a sudden, she is attacked by so violent an eruption of blood, that she is pronounced to be at the fatal termination of her disorder. The afflicted aunt, not satisfied with having consulted only those physicians who had hitherto attended her, and determined to avoid the reproaches of her own heart, applied to all the most celebrated of the faculty, within the city, and, particularly, to



a young man, who had for some months past acquired a very high reputation. This person, happily for *Lucilla*, had, by accident, learned from the *chevalier* the circumstances which concerned her, and, having maturely weighed and compared them together, he did not hesitate, howsoever appearances might make against him, to oppose the advice of the physicians, and to declare that, in spite of the danger so evidently threatened by the hæmorrhage, he could, certainly, relieve her. It was resolved to leave the patient to his prescriptions, and, indeed, the event was successful. It is to this very gentleman that I am indebted for the history of the beginning, and progress of the indisposition of *Lucilla*. As the chief complaints were an extreme aridity and violent inflammation of the parts of the *matrix*, and of the *vagina*, he considered even this evacuation as a remedy introduced by nature, in order to soften, and moisten these parts, and, consequently, temper their uncommon heat. Not relying, therefore, on what are called specifics, he, by gentle palliatives, assuaged the burning acrimony of the blood. To these, were added long-continued anodynes, which, with precautions inviolably observed

observed by the aunt, and by himself; and, at length, a marriage entirely agreeable to the inclinations of the patient, recovered her from a disorder, the progress of which had been no less rapid, than alarming. We may, from hence, conclude that an immoderate discharge of the *menfes* will, of itself, cure the *Furor Uterinus*, the truth of which hath been confirmed to me, not only by this physician, but by several others, who have been witnesses of similar instances, in the course of their practice.

We may also gather from experience, that a flux of the hæmorrhoids produces the same effect. The reason of it is plain. For, as the *phlogosis* of the parts may as easily be a cause, as one of the symptoms of the *Furor Uterinus*, it is certain that, the principle being destroyed, the effects must, of course, disappear. Now, nothing is more capable of diminishing, and even of taking away the *phlogosis* of the parts than the hæmorrhoidal flux. For, that which occasions the swelling, and *phlogosis* of the *matrix*, is the blood which thickens, and becomes obstructed in the little veins which cover its cavity, and its surface. This blood proceeding therefore to empty it-  
self

self across the interstices by which the vessels are connected with each other, not only frees itself in these little veins, but also absolutely empties them, in order to follow its course through the hæmorrhoidal vessels; consequently the *phlogosis* and inflammation must cease, and should they be the principal cause of the *Furor Uterinus*, as it may so happen, then the hæmorrhoidal flux will become its grave.

I recollect an instance of this kind in a young woman, about the age of twenty-six, who had, for the last six years, been subject to fits of the *Furor Uterinus*, which, indeed, were not constant, but the returns of which were so frequent as to oblige her to take some precautions. They were, at one period, rendered more violent by a suppression of the *menfes*. In a year after I had seen her, I enquired of her physician whether she still continued indisposed, who assured me, that six months before, having been attacked by a very copious hæmorrhoidal flux, she was entirely cured of every *metromaniacal* symptom. Sometimes the *Fluor albus*, when not arrived at any malignant excess, is a fortunate circumstance in favour of *metromaniacs*, as by moistening



moistening, and tempering the *matrix*, and the *vagina*, it renders them less sensible of the incitements of pleasure.

Pregnancy is frequently observed to remove the *Furor Uterinus*. The reason of this is, because the liquors contained in the *chorion*, and *amnios*, resolving themselves into vapors within the membranes, relax and soften the tunics of the *matrix*. But as the remedy is speedy, the relapse is also near at hand, unless the woman should, in a short time, again conceive.

Marriage alone cures the *metromania*, particularly if it arise from a violent passion for one whom the patient is, at last, permitted to possess.

I could mention several other circumstances confirmed from experience, which put a stop to the *Furor Uterinus*; but as they cannot with decency be submitted to the reader, I flatter myself that he will permit me to pass them by unnoticed.

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## CHAP. VI.

*The methods of cure in the first and second stage of the Furor Uterinus; the relief to be expected in the third stage.*

**T**HE different degrees of the *Furor Uterinus* may be considered as so many particular disorders. Although their relations be the same as to their cause, yet some variations are necessary in the application of remedies.

In the first stage are three indications to be followed. The first indication is the necessity of tempering, and cooling the blood; by these means, the *semen* which is formed from it, will become less acrimonious and scorching.

The second indication is the necessity of moistening, and relaxing all the internal face  
of

of the *matrix*, and of the *vagina*. The third indication is the necessity of withdrawing the patient from her obscene thoughts, so that, fully recollecting herself, she may have no objection to remain, and converse with those who can inspire her with an inclination for every thing which is proper and decent.

To accomplish the first point, which is to temper and cool the blood, we must begin by one or two venesections in the arm, (taking away a small quantity at a time,) unless critical accidents forbid them. In this case, some advise bleeding in the jugular. It is, however, in my humble opinion, better to wait until the discharge of the *menfes* shall have subsided, and then bleed in the arm, employing, in the interim, all softening and cooling remedies, in order to calm the acrimony of this evacuation.

But supposing that there should be no impediment to bleeding, the following is the course necessary to be observed in the first degree of the first stage, that is, when the malady is absolutely only beginning. A single venesection in the arm will be sufficient: the next day, the patient must be purged with the *formula*, Number I. Her usual liquor must



must be, according to the *formula*, Number II. Every morning she must drink a quart, or at least a pint of clarified whey; in the afternoon, and within three hours from each meal, she must take the same quantity.

She must not be permitted to eat any meat, except at dinner, nor even then, unless her allowance be small, and the victuals (which *must* be white, such as lamb, chicken, rabbit, and veal) free from the least seasoning, and not fat. Her appetite, which will encrease daily, may be satisfied with moist, and refreshing vegetables; she may also be indulged with such fruits as are of the same quality. The medicine, Number I. must, however, be repeated every eighth day, and, at intervals, as there may be occasion, some clysters, made up according to the *formula*, Number III. must be administered.

Should this disorder be attended with the vapors, (and I have frequently observed it to be the case) she must take, every fourth night, at going to rest, the specific described in the *formula*, Number IV. On these occasions, I never knew it fail; I have, sometimes, found even the first dose sufficient.

Sufficient

Sufficient attention will have been paid to the second indication, should the regimen, and the draughts which I have prescribed be carefully administered.

The parents of the patient, as well as the persons appointed to take care of her, are diligently to superintend the execution of every thing required in the third indication. It is, particularly, my duty to recommend some important objects of their pursuit, and to lay before them discoveries which I have, indeed, too often made, yet never without astonishment, and horror. Let me earnestly intreat them to mark the most intimate, and dear acquaintances of the unhappy sufferer, and without either sifting their characters, or prying into the motives which might strengthen the connection of these bosom friends, of what sex soever they may be, to prevent their intercourse in such an artful manner, that none may be offended, nor any uneasiness given to the patient, who must be prudently humoured on account of her own imbecillity, and the weakness of her organs.

Should the waiting maid appear to be a favorite of the patient, this servant, however prudent her conduct may be deemed, must be

be as narrowly watched, as if she had incurred those violent suspicions, to which the women of an *easy* vertue are continually exposed. It will be very necessary to mark the looks, and actions of the patient, whilst she receives the services of this attendant.

From the criminal familiarity to which such wretches are admitted by their young mistresses, and from the no less pernicious intercourse of female schoolfellows, a more general contagion arises than might be, at first, imagined. The danger is less thought of, because less evident, but it increases in proportion to its being unperceived. If, after the strictest enquiries, it should appear that the patient is not particularly attached to any person whatsoever, it may then be reasonably supposed that her imagination is the source of her disorders, and that a secret libertinism hath inflamed them to that degree of malignity which calls for an immediate remedy. It will, therefore, be necessary, should the patient still persist in dissembling, not to leave her during a single moment, either by day, or by night; and to appoint, for her bedfellow, some young woman whose chastity and discretion may stand the test of any trial.

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It must, by these means, be soon discovered that the real cause of the disorder is *self-pollution*. It will then be time to reproach her in the severest terms, to present to her the most alarming picture of this abominable vice, and to describe, and, if possible, even exaggerate the dreadful consequences which must attend it. She should be continually addressed with such representations, as may be most capable of teaching her to look back with horror, on her conduct. Every care must be redoubled, in order to prevent her from relapsing into the like irregularities. She must not, on any account whatever, be suffered to remain alone, even on her most private occasions, she must be accompanied; for I recollect some patients who confessed to me that this dishonorable habit had gained so powerful an ascendancy over their resolutions, that, perceiving themselves watched night and day, they feigned a necessity of withdrawing on secret emergencies, that they might abandon themselves, without a witness, to this detestable practice. I must also add that, from acknowledgements of this nature, I have observed that when once the first advances have been made, the women are less

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governed by the restraints of modesty, than are the men.

In the second degree of the first stage of this disorder, the bleedings must be more frequent, and abundant, yet not without paying due regard to the strength, and constitution of the patient. The emulcent and cooling remedies may be taken in larger quantities, but, nevertheless, they must be such as I have prescribed; and the purgative, which must also be the same, may, instead of every eighth day, be repeated every fourth day, during the first month. As to the rest, the same regimen may be observed, and continued for a longer time; the same precautions must also be taken relative to the personal conduct of the patient. In the third degree, on account of the preceding long-continued tension of the fibres, and that delicacy which they, of course, acquire from it, the practice must be somewhat different: for, now two obstacles present themselves which are equally formidable. The first obstacle is the weak condition of the patient, which forbids bleeding. The second obstacle is the sensibility, and irritation of the parts, which purgatives would only increase. A third obstacle

stacle results from these, which is not less alarming; and this consists of a relaxation, an *atony*, and a want of action in the nervous system, to which cooling and diluting medicines are absolutely repugnant. The truth of these three reflexions cannot reasonably be denied. And yet, more than one celebrated author, and several of our masters, particularly the person whom I respect the most, have deviated from this practice. They are, nearly to a man, advocates for copious bleedings, evacuations, and relaxing applications; but I would flatter myself that, as experience hath convinced me of the bad effects arising from this dreadful course, I might be excused from blindly following it.

It may, however, be proper, before I propose my method, to mention that which hath been adopted by others; and, here, I must beg leave to remark that mine hath always succeeded, whilst theirs hath never afforded me that satisfaction, which I, in some measure, expected from it, considering the great authorities by which it was countenanced. First, they prescribe a bleeding, more or less abundant, according to the age, the temperament, and the strength of the patient; and the



more vehement the symptoms are, the more copious and frequent must the bleedings be. I cannot indulge myself with the slightest reflexions on this first article, as they would, unavoidably, lead me into a dissertation twice as voluminous as this work.

Secondly, they recommend purgatives which indeed are mild, and without irritating the intestines, may discharge the vicious and indigested humours from the *viæ primæ*; they add that these purgatives must be often repeated.

The *hypothesis* of purgatives which do not irritate being false, this maxim, at the very first glance, infers a method which is not generally sure, and which, frequently, and particularly, if repeated, introduces accidents not easily to be cured, and, on some occasions, even incurable.

They prescribe large, and often-repeated doses of juleps, and cooling, and diluting apozems. Such are preparations from the roots, leaves, and flowers of the water-lily, the roots of vervain-mallows, the roots of succory, and of sorrel,

The

The leaves of lettuce, of willow, of lentils, (g) &c.

The leaves of marsh-mallows, of popples, and of violets.

Others, after having exhausted the vigor and blood of their patients, load and fill them with cooling preparations of the first class, which effectively extricate them from the state in which they were, but plunge them into a multitude of accidents which afford them no prospect, except that of a languishing and irksome life, at the best, useless to society, and but too often intolerable to themselves, and all about them. I have, also, observed some physicians prescribe, in this disorder, a decoction from about a double quantity of as much of the pulverized leaves of hemlock as will cover a finger-nail.

Of all these ingredients, three or four are chosen, as inclination or convenience may direct; they are administered once in the morning, and once in the evening, at a certain

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distance

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(g) I must confess myself too ignorant to discover that the leaves of lentils (*feuilles de lentille*) are possessed of virtues, applicable either in the present, or in any case. I doubt whether the *English* physicians ever relied on them for medicinal purposes. They are strong, flatulent, and hard of digestion. W.

distance from each meal, with the addition of a drachm of chrystal mineral, of *sal prunella*, or of sedative salt of *Homburg*.

Clarified whey is likewise ordered to be given, four times every day, at a distance from the meals; of each half-pint care is taken to make a decoction with an ounce of the roots of the water-lily, or rather the syrup of them mixt with it. Clarified whey without any addition is even prescribed as the only drink, provided the patient should not appear violently set against it. My opinion of this whey will be seen in the sequel; not that I entirely disapprove of it, although I think it may admit of some modifications.

Asses milk is also ordered; but I must take the liberty to condemn this practice as useless, should more efficacious remedies be employed; and as very insufficient, were *it*, alone, to be depended on. Of cow's milk, I have conceived a much better opinion. The reader will have occasion to observe what salutary effects it may produce, if administered with the requisite precautions.

It is also common to prescribe, morning and evening, emulsions prepared from the four greater cold seeds, or from the four  
 lesser



lesser cold seeds, in some distilled waters of the water-lily, of lettuce, or of endive, adding to each emulsion, an ounce of syrup of violets, of *nymphaea*, or of *alibea*. The patient is also directed to drink, during a full month, the mineral acidulated and chalybeate waters, in the quantity of a quart, or three pints, dissolving in the first glasses some purgative salt, as three drachms of *sal de duobus*, half an ounce of *sal polychrestus*, or of *Epsom salt*.

Such in general is the common practice during this degree of the disorder.

My method is somewhat different.

In answer to the first indication, which seems to require bleeding, I must observe that there are some cases in which it is serviceable, and other cases in which it is dangerous; some cases in which it is necessary to bleed twice; but none in which the bleedings ought to be either frequent or copious.

All these particularities might be justified from instances of patients whom I have been desired to attend, and who, to my great mortification, have perished miserably, because their former physicians had not left a sufficient quantity of blood to assist my endeavours to

re-establish their health. The blood contains the materials of the edifice, of which it is itself the architect.

How is it possible to repair this edifice without materials, and without the principal operator? there is no case in which it can be necessary to drain a man of his blood, except he is to be deprived of life. When the physician perceives himself driven to this cruel alternative, it is his duty to retire, unless his experience should suggest to him other attempts to relieve his patient, besides those which, ruining the principles of existence, will leave no reasonable, or flattering hope that they can ever be restored.

In order to form a judgement of those cases where bleeding may be serviceable, it will be sufficient to recollect the principles on which we are to act, relatively to the use of this remedy. We ought not to bleed but when there is an inflammation, or a *pletbora* of the vessels. When the disorder, of which we treat, either proceeds from these two causes, or subsists with them, then bleeding must be necessary, and a repetition will be still more useful, should there be any reason to dread a

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complication of the *plethora*, and an inflammation.

This happens to *metromaniacs* who are more so from imagination, than from the habitudes of a real vice. As bleeding is the most cooling, and assuaging of all the remedies, it is constantly applied to these with success; yet the bleedings must not be copious, nor repeated oftener than three or four times within the four and twenty hours. To bleed frequently, and plentifully, is to crush the patient, instead of raising her up; it is to deprive her of the power of supporting the operations of the other cooling remedies, which might be proper for her; it is, often, to prepare accidents, the cure of which will be more tedious, and probably, the event of which will be more shocking, than the disorder intended to be remedied.

Should the vice arise from the imagination, and a criminal habitude connected together, but the excesses of which had not been considerable, either from their nature, or from their duration, bleeding will be extremely serviceable; yet it must not be repeated oftener than twice in the twelve hours.

Should



Should the malady proceed solely from an excessive habitude of lasciviousness, whether in copulation, or in the abominable crime of self-pollution, where is the physician daring enough to maintain that such a patient must be blooded? let us not take away from this miserable wretch the little residue of blood within her veins; it is a seed from which we may, perhaps, raise some advantage. If we deprive her of it, there is no longer any germ, and, consequently, there will no longer be any life. More than a volume would be necessary to unfold this great maxim in physic, which may be traced in the most known principles of the art. The reasoning, however, which can persuade, in a discussion of this important subject, must fall from a more celebrated name, and from a pen more eloquent than mine. But what do I say? it is not even conviction that will enforce the practice, and we are led only to despair, whilst we reflect on the illusion of the patient, and the physician, in a matter of such alarming consequence. I will at least enjoy the satisfaction (should a Supreme Being vouchsafe to favour me with life and health) of writing a dissertation relative to this subject, at once

so plain and incontrovertible, that, perhaps, I may attain to the glory of having interested humanity in the cause of humanity itself.

As the reader is, now, informed on what occasions bleeding may be permitted during the three degrees of the first stage of this disorder, it will be necessary to make some remarks on the application of purgatives, and other remedies.

I have already given prescriptions for the first and second degree; the great difficulty is the close adherence to a proper conduct, during the third degree.

What hath been observed concerning bleedings is equally applicable to the use of purgatives. As the disorder advances, in like manner, do the weakness, and irritability increase; whatsoever, therefore, is capable of enfeebling, (and such is bleeding) becomes improper; and whatsoever may irritate, (and such is a purgative) ceases to be serviceable. Thus, until it shall have been proved to me, that these medicines do not irritate, particularly, also, when nature is in a very irritable state, I cannot admit purgatives into my practice. There will be less reason to blame my conduct, on this occasion, as it doth  
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not exclude all the evacuants, provided they be of the order of non-astringent tonics, which possess the vertue of successively digesting what may be, and, in time, of evacuating all which is superfluous.

It is, on this account, that after one or two bleedings at the most, I order the patient to be put, that very evening, into a moderately warm bath; in an hour afterwards, she must take, in a broth made of lean beef, veal, and crude barley, fifteen drops of the diaphoretic quintessence, mentioned in the *formula*, Number V. The next morning, she must again go into the bath, fasting, and afterwards take the same dose of the quintessence, in the same kind of broth. She may, now, repose herself in bed, during an hour, after which, let her eat some clear porridge, made of rice and milk, but in a very small quantity; at dinner time, the porridge may be served up to her, and but very little meat, to which may be added two common glasses of good claret, mixed with an equal quantity of mineral water. In the afternoon, about three hours after her meal, she may drink some whey exceedingly well clarified; and in order to effect this, it must be strained through a funnel



funnel covered with brown paper. At six, in the evening, she must go again into the bath, where, it will be proper to accustom her, by degrees, to remain two hours.

At coming out of the bath, she must swallow two ounces of *vinous hydromel*, or mead, mixed with fifteen drops of the diaphoretic essence; at nine or ten o'clock at night, she may drink a pint of milk; and, should she complain of hunger, she may be allowed an ounce of biscuit, or of light and well-baked bread, to soak in the milk. It will, notwithstanding, be necessary to adhere to the same precautions, directed in the two first degrees, and to apply to the parts a flannel, repeatedly dipped in a decoction of emollient herbs, with a preparation of saturn. See the *formula*, Number VI. This remedy is at once cooling and emulcent; it will, therefore, be extremely proper, should the interior inflammation of the parts prove violent, to inject some of this same preparation, if possible, into the *matrix*. These injections may the more easily be renewed, as patients of this stamp voluntarily put themselves in readiness to receive them.

If,

If, after this regimen shall have been pursued, during seven or eight days, an increase should be observed in the collection of humours, as also an accumulation of obstructions in the stomach, and the *viscera*, whilst the intestines continue averse from contracting themselves, it must be evident that nature calls for the assistance of evacuants.

In this case, a clyster must be given (made up according to the *formula*, Number VII. late in the afternoon. The next day, all the other remedies must be suspended, and the patient may drink, from hour, to hour, beginning at seven in the morning, half a pint of the apozem, described in the *formula*, Number VIII. In the evening, let her take the diaphoretic drops; and if the evacuation should be violent, the emulsion, Number X. must, without fail, be administered very late. The next day, the usual treatment must be resumed, and by adhering to this, we shall soon find reason to be surprised at the rapidity and certainty of our success.

The same essential indications present themselves in the second stage, as in the third degree of the first stage of this disorder: yet  
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there are some accidental indications which require different precautions.

Of these, I have established two degrees; in the first degree, when it is admitted that there are intervals in the melancholy *delirium*, we must adhere to the treatment prescribed in the third degree of the first stage; with this difference, that instead of the moderately warm baths, which were then directed, the bath must be used entirely cold; and that, in order to concoct the cachochymical humors which are in the *viscera*, and to evacuate from them the superfluities, the patient must take, every morning, fasting, an hour before she enters the bath, a table-spoonful of the aurific essence, mentioned in the *formula*, Number IX. and as the heat of the parts must, of course, be more violent, a pessary continually soaked in the water prepared according to the *formula*, Number IX. may be introduced into them. Should these parts be affected by more considerable accidents, recourse must be had to the remedies which I shall prescribe, in the treatment of the third stage. It is during this deplorable state, that a physician must shudder when he is called on, yet, at the same time, exert every effort in



in which knowledge, experience, and study can assist him, to do justice to that confidence wherewith he is honoured. The application to him strongly insinuates that his abilities are considered as uncommon, and that his discretion is deemed equal to the severest trials.

I have seen many patients in this miserable situation; I have given such advice as I judged to be most proper, but I did not perceive that any of them became cured.

The history of a single patient, whose disorder I had the resolution to treat, in person, always administering my own remedies, may at once serve as a model of the conduct necessary to be pursued by the physician who attends such as are afflicted with the maniacal *delirium*, and afford consolation to the parents, and acquaintances who are interested in their recovery. In this instance, my endeavours were successful; but let not a single instance diminish that terror which so shocking a situation ought always to inspire; for even whilst we surmount our obstacles, must we complain of the impenetrable secrets of nature which fix limits to our knowledge, and baffle our enquiries. It will, besides, appear, that  
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it was only by the most assiduous, and unremitting attention, united with regular and happily concerted preparations, that I at length accomplished the cure of this disorder.

My patient was already reduced to that extremity which compels the parents to have recourse to mad-houses, in order to relieve themselves from a burden which is more than all their tenderness and care are able to support. As I had been absent, during two years, from the province, no person had given me the least intimation of the unfortunate situation of *Mademoiselle de \* \* \* \**. There was, indeed, scarcely an opportunity of my receiving such intelligence in time to prevent an abrupt enquiry on my side, as I went, the next morning, after my arrival, to pay my compliments to her father. I found him doubly afflicted, having lost a dear and affectionate wife. When I had condoled with him on the melancholy occasion, I expressed my inclinations to see his daughter. “I find” (replied this unhappy parent) “that you are ignorant of the whole extent of my adversities; perhaps, if you had been here, you might have retrieved my disgrace; but it is, now, beyond the possibility of a remedy,

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*"and my only wish is that the great Dispenser  
of affliction would enable me to submit to it."*

Perceiving that I supposed his daughter to be dead, "no" (added he) *"the miserable Leonora still lives, and may probably, linger long, on this side of the grave, a victim to a disorder, which it is impossible to think of without horror."*

Unwilling to continue so painful a subject, I took my leave, and went to dine with a lady, from whom I was sure of hearing every particular relative to this affair. Her accounts, confirmed by the reports of others, left me no room to doubt that *Leonora* was a *Metromaniac* of the last degree. Several gentlemen of the neighbourhood had, with difficulty, escaped from her, during the fits of her *furor*: the two domestics appointed to watch her were not always sufficiently strong, or perhaps, not sufficiently vigilant to detain her within doors. During some of her elopements, she, for such a length of time, avoided their pursuits, that it was apprehended that she had thrown herself into one of the ponds, of which there were several in different parts of the estate. As yet, her father had been desired in vain to put her under close confinement. *Leonora*, whose beauty had



had been the delight and admiration of the whole country, was, now, become the terror of it; at length, her father was constrained by the most dreadful necessity, to conduct her, himself, to *Tours*, and place her in a community, which I shall not name, as it would be difficult to mention it without indignation. Although his fortune was limited, he had, nevertheless, submitted to considerable charges, extorted by these religious sisters, under a promise of bestowing on this unhappy *maniac*, that care, and tenderness, for which her anxious parent so affectionately pleaded. No assurances were spared to prevail on him to augment her pension. But the rule, in these houses, impenetrable to humanity, is to make exorbitant demands, yet never to vary their undistinguishing treatment of the patients; a treatment which inflames their *furor*, and so increases all their accidents, that, being at length totally exhausted, they sink into an irrecoverable imbecillity.

In my different journeys through the province, I had always been received by *Leonora* with that politeness, which is so flattering to a stranger. I can scarcely describe the ob-

liging attention which she was pleased to shew me, lest it might, now, seem to redound to her disgrace. The elegance of her figure, the brilliancy of her eyes, the regularity of her features, and the wholesome bloom of her complexion, were revived in my remembrance; I was penetrated with the deepest concern, when I considered those disgusting alterations, to which this malady had reduced a form that once inspired love and awe.

As some business of consequence made it necessary for me to stay in the country, longer than usual, I determined to undertake the cure of *Leonora*; it was, indeed, humanity which impelled me to this resolution, rather than any other motive, however self-love might have presented to my imagination some flattering ideas of the celebrity to be acquired by success. I immediately waited on the father, and imparted to him my design. “*Your daughter*” (said I) “*is only in her twenty-second year. What resources are there still in nature! would it not argue the most criminal barbarity, were we to neglect searching into all the secrets of the medical art, for means to recover her? perhaps, we yet have time for this proceeding. At her age, there may be*”  
*“ principles*

“ principles capable of an assimilation with those  
 “ remedies calculated to establish the animal, or  
 “ at least to repair the most essential harmony.”  
 . . . . . “ Ah!” (replied this unhappy father)  
 “ how is it possible to oppose your zeal? but,  
 “ permit me to observe to you, that this disorder  
 “ is worse than ever. The last intelligence which  
 “ I have received, drives me to despair; if you  
 “ knew all which I have done, and all which I  
 “ am still doing, you would be sensible that an  
 “ application to remedies, so far from relieving,  
 “ serves only to exasperate the disorder.”. . . “Do  
 “ not imagine” (I answered) “that I arrogate  
 “ to myself the merit of superior abilities, but  
 “ something tells me that we should, each of us,  
 “ deserve the most severe reproaches, were we to  
 “ abandon this miserable creature. The certain-  
 “ ty that she never can be cured, in the com-  
 “ munity where she is, and the hope of recover-  
 “ ing her should we move her out of it, are  
 “ powerful incentives which bid us hasten to her  
 “ relief. Besides, I will take upon me all the  
 “ trouble, and all the painful circumstances which  
 “ may attend this enterprize. I will go for her,  
 “ will bring her to my own house, and there be  
 “ continually present, to enforce the proper treat-  
 “ ment of her disorder. Two men, and two



"women-keepers, who must relieve each other,  
"shall be the only domestics suffered to enter the  
"apartment, which I will occupy. You shall be  
"the sole person of the neighbourhood entrusted  
"with the secret. Should we succeed, your ten-  
"derness, and my zeal will be highly applauded;  
"if, on the contrary, after all our endeavours,  
"the malady should continue, we shall at least  
"avoid censure, as having recurred to the same  
"methods, which are now adopted for the  
"amendment of her situation."

A proposal intended to remove all obstacles was not to be rejected. The means of executing our project were, therefore, soon determined on. In two days afterwards I departed, at a very early hour, for *Tours*, and arrived there at night. The next morning I waited on the *Grand-Vicar*, with whom I had been particularly acquainted, at *Paris*. I informed him of the motives for my journey, and desired that, under the sanction of his authority, we might be immediately introduced into the inner apartments of the house, without allowing time for the least alteration of their usual methods of proceeding, as it was of the greatest importance, that, from a view of their actual treatment of *Leonora*, I

might

might be able to form a judgement of their constant behaviour to her. I could not have applied to any one so properly, as to the *Grand-Vicar*, who was the *Superior* of the house. My request being granted, we directly went thither; and the *Grand-Vicar*, after having conversed with the *lady-abbess* on indifferent subjects, told her that he must immediately attend me to the interior rooms of the house. She represented the dangers to which we must be exposed, were the *sisters* not to have time allowed for the removal of the most furious *maniacs*; and that such as might, at the first view, appear the quietest, were liable to assume, in a moment, the most frantic, and alarming disposition; but he removed this difficulty, by saying that they might be all reduced to good order, in our presence; and then commanded the doors to be thrown open.

I shall not attempt to describe the horror, with which I was seized at my entrance into this house, the abode of lunacy, of guilt, and of despair. My respectable conductor had, in a whisper, desired the *lady-abbess* to make him a sign, on our approach to the cell of *Leonora*. He had previously agreed with me,

that she should be given up; I was unwilling that, during this first visit, it should be suspected that I was at all interested in her release.

Draw near, ye miserable young women! and curse the hour in which your weak, unguarded hearts indulged the impulse of abominable passions. Attend! and, if it be possible, do not shudder, at the picture which I place before you!

O too hideous, too alarming spectacle! Thou art, Thou always wilt be present to my sight! by Thee, my memory is now affrighted! and can This be the two unfortunate *Leonora*? is This the form of late so beauteous, and beloved? was This the Fair whose mind, whose grace, whose elegance surprised and charmed us all? O lamentable fate! at which not all her sex alone, but all Humanity must tremble! O barbarous destiny! how incredible a metamorphosis hast thou effected! . . . . What sunk, and haggard eyes! how livid is that skin! how flagging, and discoloured are those cheeks! how blue, and falling are those lips! how fetid is the foam, how black and rotten are the teeth within that mouth! how shapeless is that bent,  
emaciated



emaciated body! All, All is horrible. And is it possible to think that these were, once, the residence of every charm? this hair which art and nature formerly disposed in flowing ringlets, hangs in matted clots, whilst dirt and ordure fill the place of fragrant powders, and perfumed pomatums. The snowy hands which gracefully adorned this wretched being, are covered, now, with excrements, and take them as the paste and paint that once were used as ornaments to beauty. O fatal alms of wantonness, and love! to what a toil are ye come at last! . . . . Hither, to this mansion of infamy, and horror, have ye driven the most unfortunate of her sex! and must ye persecute her in the dungeon? have ye snatched her from the bosom of her parents, from the convivial festivity of the table, from innocent and refreshing sleep, from brilliant and amiable societies, and from endearing hope, only to prove her shame, her doom, her executioners. O Thou lascivious desire! Thou truly infernal passion! Thou art more inhuman than these keepers who perpetually beat her; Thou art more horrible than this dark, and filthy cell; Thou art viler than this nauseous food which they have set before her;

her! Thou art a thousand times more impure than this rotten, and infectious straw which is her only bed. Barbarian! is this the pleasure which thou didst promise her? too miserable *Leonora*! and is it here, thy joys, thy luxuries must end? O, may thy example prove a lesson to the perpetrators of thy guilt! may thy melancholy and wasted image convert the burning drops of blood which trickle through their veins, into such cakes of ice, as must resist the fiercest flame of unappeased desire.

I feel it difficult to express the astonishment and concern which took full possession of all the powers of my mind. I intreated the Grand-Vicar to permit me to decline his invitation to dinner, and quitted him with a promise of returning in the evening, to settle the account with the *lady-abbess*, and adjust the means of preparing *Leonora* for her departure. In the interim, he hired two strong young men, and two women, answerable to my description, and having bargained with the last for six months, ordered them all to attend him, to me. I had observed, when we entered the cell in which this wretched creature was confined, that she ran, as if for safety,

safety, into a corner of it, and, there, sat squatting, during the whole stay of one of the *sisters*; neither did I forget that she screamed violently, on any attempt to pull her nearer to us, and constantly endeavoured to resist. When I informed the *lady-abbess* that I had received orders to take away *Leonora*, she told me that it was at my option, but that the enterprize seemed, in her opinion, impracticable, unless she were to be chained in an open cart, and that even then her shocking cries must be extremely troublesome, and productive of much abuse, and scandal on the road.

I answered that I had endeavoured to provide against every inconvenience; that I should not, on any account, consent to her being chained, as I had contrived a gentler, and more decent expedient, which I should put into practice the next day; that the method to be pursued during the fits of her *furor* did not appear quite so easy, but that I should, notwithstanding, attempt to calm them; and that my only request was, that orders might be given to make her ready for the journey, by three o'clock, the next morning, and to be very careful as to the cleanliness



liness of her person, and linnen. I, that evening administered to her an emulsion, (according to the *formula*, Number X.) and then having returned a thousand thanks to the *Grand-Vicar*, retired to my inn.

The carriage being ready (as I had desired) in the morning, I went to the house, at the appointed hour, and found *Leonora*, very neatly dressed, and guarded by the sisters in the hall. I immediately entered it, alone, and acknowledged that they had done even more than I had required. In short, I entreated them to strip her of all her cloaths, except her shift, but previous to their increasing her uneasiness by this ceremony, I told them to give her the emulsion, as before, in which attempt, they, with great difficulty, succeeded. They then began to undress her; and this operation was not performed without a very shocking degree of violence.

I ordered them to swathe her with a broad bandage of strong cloth, by which her arms were pinioned down to her sides. During this performance, which was executed with great dexterity, she was so incensed as to foam at the mouth with rage, but force was not to be resisted. Her keepers placed her in the carriage,

carriage, where it was not difficult to confine her; but her shrieks, and the gnashing of her teeth were shocking, nor ever interrupted, except when she attempted to bite, or to spit in the faces of the attendants. The carriage proceeded at a very quick pace, and I, who followed on horseback, had time to give myself up to comfortless reflexions on the uncertainty of extricating my patient from this dreadful situation. At dinner time, being put to bed, she slept about half an hour, but could not be prevailed on to take any thing. I was desirous of trying whether, by restoring to her, the use of her hands, she might not become more tractable, and willing to accept what was offered to her. This, indeed, succeeded, yet not without endeavours on her side, to pinch her keepers, who were, afterwards, greatly troubled to bind her, as in the morning.

We continued our journey, and after having experienced all the frantic violence of her disorder, arrived at my country house by night. I ordered her to be carried immediately to her apartment, where I found that every preparation had been made, exactly according to my directions.

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As all the particulars relative to the treatment of my patient may serve as rules in a similar case, I flatter myself that the reader would be more inclined to forgive me for being tedious, than for omitting the most trifling circumstances.

The bed ran on castors, and was made of strong, and very thick oak; a pillar was placed at each angle, and also a pillar in each middle, forming, in the whole, eight pillars. The inner part of the bed, which was shaped like a box, and measured six feet, by two feet, and a half, was stuffed with hair. At the bottom, were girths, which might be taken away at pleasure. She was not allowed either a feather bed, or a mattraß, but only an oaten-chaff ticking; a single sheet carefully fastened at the end, and sides of the bed, by straps, and buckles, is sufficient. No other coverlet, nor any different method of lying can be necessary, until the patient shall have been restored to a certain degree of amendment. Late as it was, I, on my arrival, ordered a bath to be prepared, in which the patient was obliged to remain an hour. When she came out, and had been wiped dry, a large plate-full of rice was offered to her, which



which she greedily devoured. She was afterwards put swathed to bed, and attended only by one man, who was directed not to punish her, when she attempted to bite, or shriek out, any otherwise than by throwing a glass of cold water in her face.

The next day, she was blooded four times, to the quantity of six ounces, observing the distance of three hours from one bleeding, to another. Between each bleeding, I ordered her to take a clear broth, made of milk, and barley-flour, in each of which half an ounce of the syrop of poppies had been infused.

I began this cure on the twelfth of May in the year 1761. On the thirteenth, for the first time, I made her take the quintessence, in the *formula*, Number V. putting fifteen drops in a broth, composed of veal, the quarter of a lean fowl, and all the assuaging herbs, (see the *formula*, Number XI.) after using the bath for an hour, and having had the head pumped on. At five o'clock, she again bathed, as before, and went through the same pumping. Her dinner was milk-pottage. If she was thirsty, in the day time, she drank only clarified whey; two hours before the bath, she took a broth of barley-flour;

flour; and at six o'clock, at coming from the bath, and the pumping, a plentiful milk-soup, and about ten o'clock, the broth as above, mixed with an ounce of the syrup of white poppies.

I obliged her to observe this regimen, and follow these remedies during the remainder of the month of May, and all June.

It must be remarked, first, that she was always so swathed in the night, that she could not possibly apply her hands to the parts. Secondly, that, during the day time, the women watched her, not only when she was in bed, but when in the bath, so narrowly, as to prevent her from seizing the least opportunity of indulging in any obscenities. Thirdly, that whenever she offered to be guilty of them, she was no otherwise punished than by having water thrown in her face; or, at the most, by a pretended preparation for immediately swathing her. Fourthly, that before her entry into the bath, injections were introduced into the *vagina*, and care taken that she should preserve them. (See the *formula*, Number XII.) Fifthly, that she wore, night and day, over the reins, a plate of lead, which was sufficiently thin; and over all the parts

parts a very thick flannel continually moistened with emollient waters. (See the *formula*, Number XIII.) I betook myself during this whole time to the application of remedies for the particular vices of the organical parts; I thought it proper to rest satisfied with having recured to these general palliatives capable of softening the salt and muriatic constitution of the blood, and, of course, of correcting the vice in the lymph, which is near to these parts. It will scarcely be credited, that, notwithstanding this regimen, and the administration of such anodynes, no alteration should have been wrought in the patient. The same *furor*, the same running, (though, indeed, somewhat less fetid) the same jaundice, and the same stiffness of the skin still prevailed. On the first of July, I, however, began to employ remedies which were rather more tonical. It was, on this account, that without interrupting the order of those remedies which I had, hitherto, applied, and without changing any part of the regimen, I infused, into the broth for night, fifteen drops of the anodyne tincture, according to the *formula*, Number XIV. instead of the syrup of poppies; and I, also, put into the broth for the

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morning,



morning, four grains of the *aurum vitæ*, (the preparation of which hath long been, and still is to many persons, a rare secret) instead of the diaphoretic quintessence: (see the *formula*, Number XV.) I, nevertheless, thought it my duty to attend more essentially to the accidents of the parts.

These accidents were a considerable elongation of the *clitoris*, attended with tetters, and an abscess in the *matrix*, the malignity of which was but too apparent from the acrimony, and fetidness of the matter which ran from it; the nose was painful, and habitually inflamed, sometimes more, and sometimes less.

The elongation, or turgescency of the *clitoris* was a little diminished; the tetters seemed to have lost their acrimony, and I had reason to imagine that the same embrocations might, in length of time, entirely cure them; but I attended more seriously to the running, which gave me room to suspect an open ulcer in the cavity of the *matrix*, I therefore ordered the introduction of the injection according to the *formula*, Number XVI. At the end of a month, namely, towards the sixth of August, I had the satisfaction of observing that

that my patient was become more tranquil; the ravings of her imagination were less frequent, and her opposition to remedies less violent, whilst she restrained her lascivious motions, at the very first threat.

The colour and odour of the running was, now, more laudable; the nose was, indeed, somewhat painful, but not inflamed. In short, I perceived the salutary effects of my remedies, although as yet I could not entertain the most distant hope of accomplishing an absolute cure. Yet the jaundice which gradually disappeared, informed me of a total revolution in the machine. I made an alteration in the injections, and directed that they should be administered according to the *formula*, Number XVII. This was repeated after the bathing. I, besides, continued the regimen, and the remedies. I had, hitherto, prevented the father from indulging his inclinations, by a visit to *Leonora*. When I assured him that I discovered a considerable amendment in her situation, he remarked that his presence would, probably, occasion some sensation, the effects of which might be serviceable. She had, as yet, only seen her keepers and me. When I mentioned her

father to her, she appeared to fall, like any reasonable person, into a deep thought, from which she did not recover, until after the expiration of some minutes. I concluded from it that the image of a man so dear to her was floating in her ideas, and that, consequently, the fibres of the brain, might, by degrees, resume their natural tone. On the last day of August, which was almost four months after the first use of the remedies, I introduced the father into the apartment of *Leonora*.

I had prevailed on him to resist those emotions of tenderness which occasion tears, as circumstances which make too lively an impression are, in this situation, dangerous. I had given the daughter notice of his arrival, in order to assist her to collect her scattered ideas. As was always the case, whensoever I spoke to her, she made me no manner of answer. The father was not more fortunate. She surveyed him with a fixed eye, sighed, and then turned aside, as if to avoid an object which it was fatiguing to look at any longer. I did not expect so tranquil an interview, and thought it improper that it should continue. I even advised the father to pay  
her



her but few, and short visits, and then to refrain from the manifestation of any feelings which might either tire, or disturb her. *"The return of the fibres"* (said I) *"to their exact tones, must absolutely be accomplished, before she possibly can recollect you. This will be a work of time. By endeavouring to accelerate its progress, we should but retard it. Let us patiently hope that the proper remedies may hereafter introduce that perfect accord, which is to lead her back to a full knowledge of you. This is a mathematical point, the distance of which we are ignorant of."*

Notwithstanding her apparent insensibility, I, from this moment, talked to her, every day, concerning her father, and her former female acquaintances. I mentioned to her the country, her walks, and excursions, and, in short, every circumstance which I imagined she might the most easily retrace in her memory. I still continued to speak to her, yet she obstinately remained silent, not giving any kind of answer, either to me, or to her father, whom she always surveyed with the same astonishment.

I must confess that this stubborn taciturnity disconcerted me the more, as I perceived that

in all other respects, she recovered at a great rate, for, by the end of September, the ulcer of the *matrix* appeared cicatrised, the turgescency of the *clitoris* was no longer observed, the tetters were absolutely healed, and, for some days past, her actions had been free from the least obscenity. She was obliging to her keepers, and took the different remedies with the utmost willingness. It was, now, more than a fortnight, since she had worn any bandage.

It was thought sufficient to wrap the parts in a soaked flannel, which was passed four times round the waist, and descended to the middle of the thigh. On this day, the bandage was raised higher, that she might walk with more ease, across the apartment, which she did, a little, and with a very reasonable, but extremely melancholy air. She, now, received me with that distinguished decency, and good manners, which proved the order of her ideas. I was, by this time, fully persuaded that two circumstances alone retarded the full recovery of my patient.

First, the shame which she felt at the thoughts of appearing again in the province, might, possibly, keep the fibres in an obstinate

stinate tension. Secondly, the disagreeable ideas produced by this shame, might also occasion a profound melancholy. But I have since discovered, from her own confession, that I was mistaken. On the twenty-second of October, one of her women came running towards me, and cried out, "*come, sir, this*  
 "*very instant! mademoiselle who has been in*  
 "*a deep sleep, during the whole night, is just*  
 "*now awake; after having fixed her eyes on my*  
 "*companion and me, she enquired who we were.*  
 "*We answered, that by orders from her father*  
 "*and you, we attended her to relieve her during*  
 "*her disorder. On her asking us where she was?*  
 "*we replied, at the house of an intimate friend*  
 "*of her father, and that, if she chose it, we*  
 "*would call him."* I ran with inexpressible joy to her apartment. She received me with that cold and languishing air which had been always visible during the calmest periods of her disorder, and desired me to send to her father, to remove her, as she was now unwilling to give me any trouble. I immediately dispatched a messenger to inform him of this happy news. It was not long before he waited on *Leonora*, who did not receive him with much more tenderness than she had



shewn to me. When his embraces had been returned with a respectful moderation, she said; "*I awake, my father! from a tedious, and*  
"*fatiguing dream, during which I must, cer-*  
"*tainly, have been guilty of many criminal ex-*  
"*travagancies, or else you never could have*  
"*removed me from your presence. If I have*  
"*any influence over your tenderness, let me pre-*  
"*vail on you to take me to your own house, that*  
"*I may again enjoy those pleasing privileges,*  
"*which, there, you always granted me. May*  
"*I also intreat that no one may have access to*  
"*us, excepting this gentleman,"* (pointing to me) "*and Mademoiselle de Beaudeduit, whom*  
"*I wish to retain. Her services must be, on*  
"*every occasion, agreeable to me. She is the*  
"*only one of my attendants, who, during my*  
"*miserable dream, did not violently disturb, and*  
"*affect my imagination."* It is not easy to do justice to the language and feelings of this excellent father. He promised to comply with every part of her request, and I, in my turn, carefully avoided the least objection to it. It was determined that we should remain that day at my house, and, at night, repair to the castle of *Monsieur de . . . . .* where I resided

resided a month, and scarcely quitted it, for a moment.

*Leonora* hath, during a long time, adhered to the regimen which I prescribed for her, eating only white meats, and drinking nothing except milk, and clarified whey. She hath slept, for a great while, on a single hair-ticking. Her father also cautiously selected her visitors from amongst those who were at once the most lively, and the most vertuous. She is, now, married to an amiable youth, who is passionately attached to her, and perceives with rapture, that her beauty and discretion is the subject of the whole province.

I have nothing farther to add concerning the remedies and conduct which were pursued on this, and which will serve for every similar occasion. They who cannot be cured, may, thus, at least, be relieved; they may be enabled to wait for death with a more diminished degree of horror and despair.

I must anxiously recommend to the parents, in whose families these misfortunes may arise, a resolution strictly to observe that their children take, in their presence, or the presence of an experienced physician, the remedies which he prescribes for them; and  
not

not to send these miserable objects to mad-houses, until every method shall have been tried for their relief, and until the expence of keeping them becomes absolutely insupportable. Let me also advise them never to permit their daughters to contract the slightest familiarity with servants of either sex.

Such parents as can afford to allow them governesses, should chuse one of rather an advanced age, and of an irreproachable purity of morals.

If, in spite of all their vigilance, their young hearts should be unworthily engaged, or rather, if the bad counsels of some companion should have inflamed the imagination with lascivious ideas, let parents abstain from a barbarous severity, and those bitter reproaches, which, acting contrary to their design, can never reduce the mind to order, and obedience. It is to calm moderation, to sound sense, and to cool resolution, that they must instantly apply, and these will teach them to employ those means which we have already enforced, in our remarks on the second stage, and the third degree of the first stage of this disorder.

And



And ye mistresses of boarding schools! who turn the vertuous modes of education into a sordid, vile, and mercenary trade, reflect with horror on your guilt, when you commit the care of pupils to those under-teachers, whom you have chosen, from a principle of despicable interest, out of the meanest dregs of the people, or, at least, from the bosom of that misery which too generally proceeds from wantonness, and indiscretion. I shall conclude this work with some observations on the imagination. I flatter myself that they will not prove absolutely useless, and that Physicians, Parents, and even the Sex will discover in them opinions and moral reflexions, drawn from nature, and supported by real examples.

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OBSERVATIONS  
ON THE  
IMAGINATION,

As connected with the

NYMPHOMANIA.

**W**ITHOUT entering into a metaphysical dissertation concerning this interesting portion of the human mind, I shall confine myself, with all possible clearness, and precision, to such remarks as are proper, and necessary to my subject.

One of the principal points to which a physician ought to attach himself, is the study of the effects of the imagination, in the disorders which occur to him, in the course of his practice. A neglect of this important business must either involve us in mistakes, or plunge us into a total ignorance of the real causes of particular complaints.

The knowledge of interior, and exterior physical symptoms, so absolutely necessary on  
all

all occasions, is, unfortunately, too limited, and the most learned physician may, in this respect, prove likely to be embarrassed, and even err daily in giving his opinion, and prescribing the conduct to be pursued.

The imagination is a mirror that represents the objects, by which man is affected, and thrown into action. The glass of this mirror varies in its composition like all the organs; it owes its allusions to nature, and to prejudices; these are the canvas on which it works. Nature supplies it with the first objects, and the inclinations on which the constitution determines. This glass enlarges, diminishes, multiplies, or renders the objects such as they are, according to its degree of perfection.

Although the first objects which present themselves in this mirror are only carried thither by the assistance of the senses, yet the imagination produces from it an infinite number of objects fabricated from comparisons, and relations; and these objects want nothing but probability to give them existence.

It is the imagination which is almost constantly the principle, or the mother of the greater part of the passions, and of their excesses; for without the imagination, man would



would have but few determined passions. He might, indeed, drink, eat, exercise all his senses, and satisfy all his wants, to an excess, but these could only be actual pleasures, and such as had not been combined, since he would enjoy indifferently whatsoever objects should present themselves, without having any other decided inclinations, except those which might be procured for him, either by habitude, or by occasion.

The imagination may be considered as the chief-minister of self-love; it follows the impression of the constitution; always acquainted with its inclinations, it endeavours to exaggerate, and to assist them. The inclinations are conveyed in their simple, and natural state, by the senses, to the imagination which refines, increases, guides, and fixes them. It is the imagination which presents to the glutton, a picture of the pleasures of the table, and of the exquisite savour of such, or such a dish; it is the imagination which directs him in the search of, and even the invention of luxurious seasoning for his dainties; the imagination augments his passion for high-living, and makes him sacrifice every thing to indulge in it; the imagination, in short,  
procures

procures for him, that delicious and anticipated relish which renders his real repast more exquisite, and voluptuous.

Yet the illusions, and the force of the imagination over the passions are not always equal, and the same; love is one of those passions on which it labours most; and, here, it may be said to wind the constitution up, above its natural powers; a single spark is, here, sufficient to make the fire blaze immediately; or, under contrary circumstances, the imagination represses, and confines the flame, and force, with which nature may have endued the same temperament.

In the first case, the physician ought to possess sufficient penetration to unravel the real causes of the disorder, when the slightest symptoms, or the slightest suspicions induce him to believe that it may proceed from thence.

In the second case, the physician should be too sagacious not to discover, in this very imagination, a part of the remedies proper for the cure of his patient. There is no occasion on which it may be asserted with more justice, *contraria contrariis curantur*.

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This point is, particularly, of the utmost importance in the disorder, of which we are, now, treating; for, there are cases which will admit of a cure from a simple attention to the imagination; but there are no cases (or, at least, scarcely any) in which physical remedies can alone effect a radical cure. There is no constitution without a germ of this natural and generative fire, unless some vice, or some accident contrary to the order of nature, should have excluded it; and this cannot be a case in any manner relative to the *Nymphomania*.

The laws of society are public wants, to which it was necessary to sacrifice several particular wants; they establish remedies, and preservatives, which it was requisite to devise, in order to repair the real evils which might destroy, or trouble the advantageous, and even necessary order which exists. It is thus, that the privileges and limits suitable to each sex were established. The present modes of polite education proceed from this principle, and are submitted to these remedies. Hence it happens that our young ladies are brought up in a restraint, and decency, which frequently are capable of irritating their passions,  
of



of causing a revolution, and disorder in the physical system of their nature, and of rendering them the victims of the public good, whensoever a constitution inflamed by nature, or by the imagination, occasions these accidents.

It is for this reason, that humanity cannot be too anxiously engaged in procuring remedies for such an inconvenience. It ought to be the particular object of the faculty to extend, and improve their knowledge of these unfortunate and dangerous disorders; it is equally difficult either to discover that they exist, or afterwards to prescribe for them, whilst the prejudices of education make it shameful to confess that they are felt. The parents should be the first to offer their assistance to the physicians. It is a duty exacted from them, not only by the tender ties of affinity, but by a proper regard to their own honour; *they*, also, must share in the disgrace which will result from the dreadful consequences of this disorder. Let us, now, take a nearer view of the effects of the imagination.

The attachment of one sex to the other sex arises from a want as natural as it is difficult to suppress. There are no moral means

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which

which can impose silence on nature. The ignorance in which young persons are educated, may, perhaps, render this call of nature, in some measure, unintelligible, but will not prevent it from being heard. Those mysterious concealments, which yet cannot escape her notice, too violently excite the imagination of the young female, to suffer it to remain idle. What she perceives without being able to unfold the reasons of it, what she hears without absolutely understanding it, all, in short, irritates, and inflames her ideas; whilst this germ of natural and physical fire receives strength from her imagination, and increase from a superabundant nourishment, and a blind intelligence; then, the constitution, scarcely formed, feels real wants, which, although unknown, are capable of occasioning a dangerous devastation in those parts which are the seat of these wants. All this, a lively imagination may effect, of its own accord, and without the assistance of any knowledge, except that which nature hath imparted. It is at this period that the physician, whose prudence and sagacity have enabled him to discover this situation, should avail himself of every advantage, which he hath

hath the power of pursuing. We will now pass on to more critical subjects.

It rarely happens that a girl reaches the age of puberty, without soon acquiring such an intelligence as is capable of leading her to the means of penetrating into the mysteries of love. Her imagination induces her to improve every occasion of gratifying her curiosity; the words and actions which escape from others in her presence, the books which fall into her hands; in short, every thing favours her enquiries; as her discoveries increase, she longs for farther information, and in the end, becomes a victim to the fierceness of desire.

Even the most virtuously-educated, the most carefully attended girl may always find opportunities of conversing with the young persons of her sex. Such an intercourse collects together their different knowledge, and ideas; it procures materials for their imaginations to work upon with double power and success. I have frequently listened, unseen, to the conversation of several girls, on this subject; and had ample reason to be convinced how impossible it is to describe the



vivacity, and the singular effects of which the imagination is capable.

How many girls are also liable to be corrupted by servants, or the false friends of the house? with what poison do they not afterwards infect their companions? these are evils which cannot always be warded off, but it is necessary that we should learn to foresee, and to distinguish them, as they are generally the first principles, and the nourishers of the disorder of which we treat. I have observed so many occurrences of this kind, that I cannot avoid relating one, which strikingly exemplifies the irresistible power of the imagination, the disorders which it may cause, and the mistakes into which it may lead the faculty.

A young lady, named *Julia*, was born of rich and noble parents. Neither her education, nor her talents had been neglected. It was the intention of her father to divide a very considerable fortune between her, and an only sister. Her beauty and accomplishments procured her an admirer in every unmarried youth, who could assume the least pretensions to address her. Nature, indeed, seemed to have been too prodigal to her: her mind and tem-

temperament were full of that vivacity which would have rendered her still more agreeable, had she been less ungovernable, and less dangerous. Her heart was a composition of sulphur perpetually exposed to the flame of love; it was a quintessence of fire which ran through every vein.

Scarcely had *Julia* reached her twelfth year, when she was fully sensible of one great design of her existence. Her imagination painted to her, in the most agreeable colours, the rapturous situation which she had a right to enjoy; and her qualities, with which she was but too well acquainted, seemed to promise her that happiness, of which she had conceived so lively an idea.

Her bosom-friend, and the interpreter of her ideas, was a young waiting-woman, named *Berton*, who, experienced in the arts of enjoyment, and initiated into the secrets of Venus, could play her cards so well, as to deceive, whenever it was necessary. In the presence of the mother, she was a virtuous *Agnes*; with the daughter, the dear, voluptuous procuress of lascivious pleasure; and in the arms of lovers, an absolute *Messalina*. It was thus, that seeming to oblige all, she dis-

charged her different offices with a success, which was not, however, of long duration.

*Julia*, without being suspected to have made such dangerous acquisitions, became every day more knowing, whilst the powers and seductions of her imagination were continually increasing. At the sight of young men, with whose faculties she was already acquainted in theory, she felt those lively emotions which filled her heart with wishes that she longed to satisfy. To what revolutions was she subjected by the call of nature! she heard, she felt, she understood this call too well to disobey it. How different was the call to which her parents listened! interest and honour spoke to them; interest and honour retarded the natural assistance which the pressing necessities of *Julia* so eagerly demanded.

Although she was but thirteen, several suitors desired her hand in marriage. Her parents pleaded that she was too young, and in no haste to enquire for an husband, esteemed it most prudent to wait till they should find a person worthy of her fortune, and her birth.

*Julia*



*Julia* was, now, in the state described in the distinctions of the *Nymphomania*. She was in the first situation, which I have termed *the beginning*. Reason still remained in the full possession of all her privileges. Vertue was still capable of fixing a thousand stings within her conscience. The lasciviousness glowing within her imagination as yet was forced to struggle against those impressions of modesty, and honour, which excite a resolution to rise in opposition to its malignity.

Undoubtedly, if her imagination had been less lively, and less busied, and if her temperament had been less violent, she might have enjoyed the power of attending with success to this reasoning: *it is neither permitted, nor honorable that I should yield to such a shameful passion*. But *Julia* was not so organized as to be able to overcome this unfortunate inclination. Her fibres were disordered by continual tensions; her sleep was disturbed by those lively impressions which she had received, during the day time; the delicate and exquisite meats on which she fed, only irritated and heated her constitution the more; in short, the fatal assistance, and the dangerous conversation of *Berton* were but too

prevalent over the powers of her imagination.

The farther *Julia* advanced in age, and in understanding, the more was she beyond all patience at being deprived of an enjoyment, which appeared to her so pleasing. The tedious indifference with which her parents attended to the future alteration of her state, was by so much the more cruel, as she was without a remedy. Submission, shame and modesty were enemies which she knew not how to attack. Scarcely could she summon up sufficient resolution to discover to *Berton*, a part of her desire. This painful situation threw her into a visible melancholy. Every circumstance fatigued and vexed her. She could not always repress her ill humour though in the presence of her parents. Her feigned apologies for these improprieties prevented them from observing the real causes, and every remedy which they applied was rather detrimental, than of service.

*Berton*, who had more penetration, and who knew more than the rest of the family, was not to be so deceived. A mercenary interest which she had in obliging her mistress, induced her to offer her assistance, *in her way*. She,

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at first, recommended patience, and enlarged on the anxious tenderness, by which her father was guided in his endeavours to procure her happiness; she observed that it was this tenderness which as yet retarded those delightful moments prepared for her, by love, and pleasure; and that the choice which he, undoubtedly, would shortly make, was destined to reward her merit, and become the source of happiness, and rapture.

Such language served only to quicken her sensibility, and inflame the violence of desire. *Julia* had too much reason to apprehend that the moment of choosing was still distant. She knew the natural distrust, and wavering resolutions of her parents; she saw what obstacles their avarice might throw in her way, and dreaded every disappointment, when she considered that they were so naturally averse from relinquishing any portion of their fortune, that it must be difficult to prevail on them speedily to settle their daughters in the world.

“ *How cruel*” (said the unhappy *Julia*)  
 “ *are the prejudices, and how shocking are the*  
 “ *customs, to which the rich young women of*  
 “ *fashion must continually be sacrificed! can I,*  
 “ *my*



“ my dear Berton! when, every hour of my  
“ life, I am surrounded by a croud of young and  
“ charming lovers, and whilst I cherish the ideas  
“ which thou hast given me of pleasure, still wait  
“ with patience for the moments which are so far  
“ removed? must tedious measures, measures  
“ which too frequently are in a state of open war  
“ with nature, and which may, probably, de-  
“ ceive at last, be still invariably pursued? is it  
“ possible that my parents can have entirely for-  
“ gotten the sensations of their younger days?  
“ if this be tenderness, why is it so barbarous,  
“ and ill-concerted? what would my father say,  
“ if pressed by violent hunger, he were to order  
“ his cook to provide a dinner, and if the cook  
“ were to run immediately to the market, and,  
“ there, finding only common meat, to return  
“ home without any thing; and when my fa-  
“ ther, tired of waiting, should ask the reason  
“ of his delay, were he to answer: Sir, I am  
“ extremely sorry, that having enquired every  
“ where, I could only meet with vulgar food; as  
“ such viſuals are by no means proper to be set  
“ on your fashionable table, you must forgive  
“ me, sir, if I do not dress any dinner for you  
“ to-day, and expect to be entertained to-morrow  
“ in a ſtile ſuitable to your rank.”

“ Canſt

"Canst thou suppose, Berton! that my father  
 "would be satisfied with this civil apology from  
 "his cook, and that, restraining his appetites, he  
 "would quietly wait until some exquisite dish,  
 "worthy to appease the hunger of a man of  
 "quality, had been placed before him."

As Berton perceived that all her moral arguments had no great effect on her mistress, she resolved to dissipate her melancholy by some other method. She imagined that reading might prove an agreeable relief. She chose the most tender and lascivious novels, and these, she recommended to her, in their proper turns.

What a remedy! nothing more was necessary to throw *Julia* into that situation, which I have described in the third degree of the first stage of this disorder. These books were like a burning-glass which collects the rays of the sun, in order to fix them on one particular spot, which they must set on fire. The imagination of *Julia* was this blazing spot, the flames of which, soon communicating with her heart, broke out with a redoubled fury. Hitherto, nature alone had spoken; but now, illusions, chimeras, and extravagancies began to act their parts. The lascivious and  
 voluptuous

voluptuous images which she devoured with her eyes, at once excluded from her mind those sentiments of honour, of piety, of modesty, and of reserve, which nature had, till then, respected, and which she never could have overcome, without the aid of art. *Julia* at length was unfortunate enough to summon up a resolution to approve of this abominable maxim: *nothing is so delightful as to give a loose to amorous desires.*

Although her melancholy appeared, at times, to have subsided, yet she frequently relapsed; her thoughts were on the rack for means wherewith to realize these glowing pictures of enjoyment. At length, discovering the whole extent and force of her desires to *Berton*, she informed her of her determined resolution to apply to physical experiments.

But as, from the use of books, her imagination had been enabled to trace out for her the plan of a more regular passion, her heart was inclined to fix itself on one particular object. Her eyes were continually turned to every side, in search of this hero, who, appearing fit for amorous exploits, was destined to engage and settle her desires.

*Saint*



*Saint Albin* was, in fact, the man on whom the rays of this impetuous flame were darted. It was for his sake that they were all collected into one point. He soon perceived it, and thought the occasion too fortunate to be slighted. He grew more bold and assiduous, and shortly learned from the mouth of *Julia*, what her eyes had already so charmingly expressed. But it was apprehended, that, as *Saint Albin* had only a very small estate, the parents, however they might approve of him as a mere visitor, would reject him as a son-in-law.

*Berton* was immediately consulted, and importuned; but this girl was not without a kind of prudence; she refused to assist in bringing about any secret interviews, least her own conduct might be open to suspicion; and she resolved to use every expedient to maintain that equal influence which she perceived herself at the point of losing. She promised *Saint Albin* that she would not neglect any opportunities in her power to render him successful, but, at the same time, persuaded him to use all possible means to obtain the consent of the parents, as it was on them,

them, that the turn which this affair might take, so greatly depended.

In order to induce *Julia* to wait with patience for this event, she had recourse to *Masturbation*; she considered it as the only method of assuaging the passions, and dividing the attachments of her mistress, nor scrupled to prevail on her to adopt this remedy, which usually conceals beneath the outward shew of vertue, and honour, the most abominable debaucheries: these are the sources of those excruciating distempers which are so horrible to humanity, and which too generally terminate in shame, remorse, lunacy, and death.

How dangerous is the practice of this vice which, at once encouraging and satiating the passion, is too secret to destroy the character of the guilty! how many girls and women are there, whom fear and vanity might have restrained, but who, on the discovery of the means of seeming vertuous and discreet in the opinion of the world, would give a loose to every lewd indulgence? this fatal rage of *Masturbation*, of which the imagination is the artisan, leads to excesses over which the wretched criminal imperceptibly ceases to have any power; excesses by so much the more dangerous,

dangerous, as they never meet with any obstacles, besides those which must succeed exhausted or extinguished strength. Such is the melancholy and abominable situation which I have described in the second distinction of this malady, as *confirmed*.

The steps which *Saint Albin* took in order to obtain *Julia* from her parents, were unsuccessful. They even became fearful, and suspicious of him; his visits were considered as dangerous; and, that they might stifle in the birth a connection which they absolutely disapproved of, they politely desired him not only to withdraw his pretensions, but to return no more.

The frequent use which *Julia* made of the remedy prescribed by *Berton*, added to the hopes of shortly possessing her lover, wrought a visible change in her behaviour; her gaiety and usual graces seemed preparing to establish themselves; but when she was informed of the exclusion of *Saint Albin*, she sank into despair. She endeavoured to soften this misfortune, by renewing her unworthy operations. Her imagination, and her burning temperament induced her to carry it to a fatal excess; a general disgust, and a dark melancholy



choly rendered her insupportable to herself, and to all others; continually alone, she avoided every object which might withdraw her from the indulgence of her passion. Her complexion grew fallow, and her body became daily more emaciated; an excessive heat consumed her within and without; her fibres, and her organs disturbed by a continual motion, and by supernatural tensions, frequently occasioned a *syncope*, and threw the family into the most dreadful apprehensions. Her distracted parents, far from pursuing the proper methods to discover the cause of this situation, sent for a physician, who, after having formed some ill-supported conjectures, prescribed his remedies.

*Julia* was still no better; she sacrificed all the strength which she was mistress of, to the indulgence of her imagination, in the usual exercise; the remedies which she took served only to encrease the flame, and irritate her disorder. The bleedings which were directed assisted to exhaust her. She soon fell into the last degree of this malady, which I have described as *desperate*. The fibres of the brain became subject to violent attacks, and the  
maniacal

maniacal *delirium* appeared, as I have already represented it.

Although the symptoms of the disorder were extremely clear, yet the parents, and the physicians, at once blind and obstinate, attributed to other causes those surprising effects, the operations of which they could not but observe. The next circumstance induced the physician to form new and equally false conjectures.

The maniacal *delirium* which had seized on the brain, and all the faculties of *Julia*; deprived her of every idea of modesty, and her words and actions were tainted with the most shocking indecency, and the most ungovernable lubricity. When the physician approached to feel her pulse, she seized on his hand with an astonishing strength and fury. The efforts which she made, and the violent agitations of her body threw her clothes aside, and enabled him to discover on her linnen some spots of such a colour, as induced him to suspect that her miserable situation was owing to an infectious, and premature commerce. His doubts were soon resolved into certainty. He ordered a change of linnen for the patient; he attentively examined that

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which

which she had shifted, and then determined that the *matrix* was inflamed, and ulcerated, that the vesicles, the fibres, and the neighbouring organs of this part were attacked, and that a sharp *virus* was eating into the orifices of the glands. He conjectured that all this was occasioned by a criminal connection with some man infected by the *lues venerea*, who had communicated to her the same disorder. With regard to her insanity, his opinion was, that another had privately prescribed for her, and ordered remedies dangerous either on account of their quality and quantity, or from a preparation of mercury, which must have attacked the fibres of the brain, and have occasioned that *delirium* which manifested itself by such lascivious actions.

After the physician had delivered this opinion, which appeared extremely well deduced, *Berton* was violently suspected, and threatened. Her replies did not in the least correspond with the judgement of the physician. She was positive that *Julia* had never admitted any man to her embraces, and not weak enough to imagine that *Masturbation* alone was capable of giving her the *lues venerea*. She therefore observed, with equal confidence,



confidence, and good sense, that the physician was certainly mistaken; that she would answer for it with her life, that her mistress had not only never been engaged in an impure commerce with any man whatever, but that she had not even been concerned in the least indecent interview with one; and that some other physician ought to be immediately consulted.

The resolution and assurances of *Berton* rendered the case equally astonishing, and delicate; and the parents, desirous of verifying so important a fact, sent for another physician.

The person who came united with learning, that penetration, that intelligence, and that moral knowledge which are so proper, and necessary, whensoever the state of physic demands a particularly fortunate assistance. He had, besides, attentively studied the nature of the *Nymphomania*; scarcely had he seen the patient, when he, with judgement, combined her situation with every thing which he heard, he put artful questions to the parents, and to *Berton*, and in the most confident, and indisputable language, declared *Julia* to be *Metromaniacal*. He went still farther; he

sagaciously dived to the very bottom of the affair, which, unfortunately for *Berton*, ended by proving what he had advanced. This wretch was turned out of the house, but too late.

Our prudent and able physician did not conceal from the parents the shocking and desperate situation, to which their daughter was reduced. He prescribed such remedies as were proper to assuage the violence of her disorder. These remedies, though not without their good effect, were incapable of restoring *Julia* to her senses: she was less agitated, and less enflamed, but the *delirium* perpetually raged. The physician, therefore, perceiving but one probability of bringing back her reason, proposed it to the parents.

As he was perfectly acquainted with the principle and progression of the malady, and perceived how greatly instrumental the imagination had been in raising it to this alarming height, he judged that the cure ought also of necessity to proceed from the imagination, resolving however to continue the other physical remedies. He, therefore, declared to the parents, that if they anxiously wished for the speedy recovery of their daughter, they

they might find the sole absolute remedy in their own hands; that all they had to do, was to procure for *Julia* an interview with *Saint Albin*, and, then, consent to their union which, he assured them, would be attended with the happiest effects.

The parents were very far from taking this advice in good part. Ambition, vanity and interest extinguished every paternal feeling. An application to *Saint Albin* was, in their eyes, humiliation and disgrace.

The love which *Saint Albin* had conceived for *Julia* was not of that romantic kind which would have forced him to persist in his addresses, in spite of the opposition of her relations. The manner of his dismissal had suggested to him that there were impediments too violent to be surmounted, and that, rather than lose his time, and labour, it might be more prudent to direct his views elsewhere; he had, indeed, already formed some connections with another lady, a match equally as advantageous as *Julia* could have been, when he heard of the situation of this unhappy creature. Affected, immediately, with sentiments of pity and humanity, and recollecting that former tenderness which now oc-



casioned her misfortunes, he determined to wait upon her parents, not doubting but that his presence and his intreaties would effect some revolution that might confirm the health and happiness of their daughter.

In spite of this humble and modest precaution, in spite of that silent but interesting grief which was painted on his countenance, he met with an unkind and rude reception from the mother. She told him, in a fierce inhuman tone of voice, that by appearing again before her, he was guilty of the most insolent presumption; that the indisposition of her daughter was entirely unconnected with any thing which could relate to him; and that it could only have been some persons as fond of propagating scandal, as he was, who had circulated such offensive and groundless reports.

*Saint Albin* disconcerted, confused, and vexed at his reception, and the abominable sentiments of this step-mother, prudently retired, but the humane and worthy part which he had acted, exposed him to an unjust and cruel punishment. His second mistress, having been informed of his behaviour, was so exasperated, that, resolved to deprive him  
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of an opportunity of making his defence, and pleading his pardon, she obstinately refused either to see, or hear from him.

The parents of *Julia*, perceiving, after a certain time, that there was no prospect of a cure, determined to remove her from their sight. It was her presence which, every moment, covered them with disgrace; it was her presence which, every moment, reproached their imprudence and inhumanity. She was placed in a convent, there to undergo the usual treatment of all lunatics.

The new physician, unwilling to abandon this miserable creature, prescribed for her a regimen and remedies. At the end of three years, she gradually recovered her senses. Although the mercenary barbarians who guarded her beheld with an evil eye this happy re-establishment, and even concerted measures for the concealment of it; the parents were congratulated on the occasion, and, being fully convinced of the cure, received her into their own house.

It was here, that, fatally for *Julia*, she found an important change in the family. Her youngest sister was advantageously married to a person of a distinguished rank, with

her, as she was considered as an only daughter, he received a large fortune. The situation in which *Julia* saw her married sister made so great an impression on her imagination, that she soon relapsed into the same state, and the same accidents from which she had so lately recovered. It became once more necessary to remove her to her dreadful prison. After some time, her maniacal *furor* turned to imbecillity, occasioned either by the severe treatment which she suffered, or the little care taken to administer to her the necessary remedies. It is a year since I saw her in this situation, and it is more than probable that her distemper is, at this moment, incurable.

This history affords a striking picture of the power and dangerous effects of the imagination. It clearly and forcibly proves how necessary it is that a physician should be particularly instructed in the nature and causes of this malady, and uncommonly attentive to all its operations. It is impossible to describe the state of inveteracy into which it may be driven by negligence and blunders. The fate of *Julia*, which is unfortunately but too certain, is horrible to humanity. May it prove a lesson to young women, to parents, and to physicians.

There



There are, doubtless, many of the faculty to whom this advice is needless. I am acquainted with one gentleman, in particular, whose ability and care, during his attendance on a patient afflicted with this disorder, hath been gratefully rewarded. In few words, the affair was as follows.

This physician still more expert in his treatment of disorders connected with the imagination, than of those which are only physical, was called in to prescribe for a young lady who was *metromaniacal*. He immediately applied such physical remedies as were proper in the cure of this distemper. His patient was on the point of sinking into the last stage of it. Observing that physical remedies were not sufficient, he thought it necessary to work upon the imagination. Ability and success accompanied him through this arduous enterprize. The extreme tenderness so visible in all his conduct purified, softened, and confirmed the affectionate sentiments of his recovering patient. Her parents overwhelmed with joy, and feeling all the force of those uncommon obligations which he had conferred, not on them alone, but on their daughter who already loved him, desired that he

he would accept of her, as the dearest pledge of their gratitude, in marriage. So honorable and advantageous a match was far above the most sanguine hopes and pretensions of this physician. He did not hesitate a moment to accept of the agreeable and generous offer of these worthy parents, and in the more affectionate character of an husband, cemented the ties, which, by increasing the happiness of the lady, have confirmed his own.

These two examples, essentially relative to the whole of my work, are sufficient to give the reader a clear and happily-conceived idea of my principles. Should they open a new road for some more celebrated and expressive writer, who can unfold them with that elegance to which so interesting a subject is entitled, I shall retire contented. Mine will be the glory of having placed the first stone of an edifice which, by saving the honour of more families than one, must prove an honour to society! mine will be the glory of having prevailed on others to extinguish the most tormenting miseries which can debase, afflict, and as it were unhumanize THE FIRST AND LOVELIEST PART OF THE CREATION!

*Note.*

*Note.* The addition of *Saccharum Saturni* to the ingredients of the third, sixth, and ninth receipts of this *Appendix* is not very considerable, and may, *perhaps*, prove serviceable: but the experienced and humane physician, aware of the noxious qualities of *lead*, will forbid the use of it, except in cases of the most absolute necessity. I should trespass upon the patience of the reader by a much longer *note*, relating to this subject, if the essay on the cause of the *Endemial Colic* of *Devonshire*, and the *observations and experiments on the poison of lead*, with which *Doctor Baker*, and *Doctor Percival* have favoured the Public, did not entirely overthrow an opposite hypothesis, which too many of the Faculty have vainly laboured to establish. The great abilities of *Monsieur Goulard* must have been resting themselves after the fatigue of exertion, whilst he absurdly contended that the *external* application of *lead* was, on all occasions whatsoever, free from those pernicious effects which might result from the *internal* use of it: but *Doctor Percival* hath proved from a series of stubborn facts, that the *external* administration of the *Saturnine Water* is liable to occasion paralytic symptoms, severe vomitings, violent colics,



colics, and obstinate constipations of the bowels. The fatal prescription, of which *Monsieur de Bienville* so feelingly complains, is not extended to us by one celebrated hand alone : in the involuntary destruction of Mankind, *Van Swieten* and *Boerhaave* are accomplices. The latter observes, that were a grain of *Corrosive Sublimate* to be dissolved in an ounce or more of water, and a dram of this solution, softened with *symp of violets*, to be taken twice or thrice a day, it would perform wonders in many distempers supposed to be incurable. He indeed *forbids* the use of it, unless the practitioner should be thoroughly versed in the nature of what he would undertake. It is to be regretted that he ever recommended it at all, since the caution which follows his prescription will be lost upon the merciless trier of experiments, a character which may, *perhaps*, be applied to one or two of my medical brethren, without the least shadow of injustice. I cannot conclude this *note* without mentioning an internal use of lead, which (I believe) is admitted only by the most ignorant, yet not the least valuable part of the community, the *Peasants*. Having been informed, when I was last in the country,

country, that a young woman, the daughter of a poor cottager in my neighbourhood, had been for some time afflicted with violent convulsions, I called to see her, and enquiring of the father whether any thing had been administered to her, was answered, that she had been made to swallow, during the fits, *several pieces of lead*, but that contrary to expectation, the convulsions were more frequent and severe. After having prevailed on him to withdraw *his* prescriptions, I introduced mine; but as her case is already become desperate, I scarcely dare flatter myself that I shall relieve her, and am convinced that I cannot cure her. On enquiry, I find that, amongst this class of people, *lead* is, for all fits, their *Grand Specific*. When we consider the traditional remedies, or rather deaths in disguise, which descend to the vulgar from father, to son, we must lament the impossibility of exploding the popular errors in physic so clearly and persuasively, that the lower orders of society may be taught to relinquish them. W.

[illegible]



# APPENDIX

OF

## FORMULARIES.

No. I. (b) **F**RESH pulp of *Cassia*, an ounce and an half. The best *Manna*, two ounces. Chryſtal Mineral, one drachm.

Dissolve it in half a pint of the decoction from two drachms of *Senna*, and a grain of *emetie Tartar*.

No. II. Roots of the *Consolida major*, or *Comfry*.

..... of *Marsh-mallows*.

..... of *Dog's-tooth*.

..... of *Bistort*, or *Snakeweed*, of each one handful.

Let

---

(b) It may not be improper to observe that pulpy fruits must be boiled in a small quantity of water, till they become soft. The pulp is then to be pressed out through a strong hair sieve, and afterwards boiled down to a due consistence in an earthen vessel over a gentle fire: the matter must be continually stirred about, lest it should burn. In this manner, the pulp of *Cassia fistularis* is to be boiled out from the bruised pod, and reduced afterwards to the necessary consistence, by evaporating the water. W.

## A P P E N D I X.

Let these roots remain during eight minutes in six quarts of water, which must boil during the whole time; add to it half an ounce of *stick-liquorice*, scraped extremely small. Let it have two boilings. Withdraw your water from the fire: when it is cold, put it in bottles, without corks, and keep it in a cool place, or in the cellar.

No. III. Roots of *Althea*, half an ounce.

*Linseed*, and seeds of *Pfyllium*.

or *Flea-wort*, of each a drachm;

*white soap*, grated, one drachm.

*Sugar of lead*, six grains.

Boil the whole during eight minutes in a pint of water.

No. IV. Steep in a gallon of water, during twenty - four hours, an ounce of *Pot-ash*. Strain this water as clear as possible through a brown paper into a close funnel. Mix with this water, when it is thus strained, two ounces of *fresh nut oil*, which must be drawn off cold. This forms a kind of cream.

No.

No. V. Take the leaves of the *smaller sort, or Pontic sea wormwood*, picked and dried in the shade. *Cloves*, one ounce; *Sugar-candy*, one ounce. *Ambergrise*, one drachm. *Aloes*; *Masticb*; *Gum of the Tragacanth*; of each a drachm and a half. Reduce the whole to a fine powder, and put it into a glass bottle. Pour on it a pint of rectified spirits of wine. Stop up the vessel with a wet bladder; let it work by a very gentle, and almost insensible heat, during fifteen days, when you will have a *diaphoretic* essence of a superior quality. When the liquor is cold, let it be strained over brown paper, into a funnel hermetically covered, and then put into bottles well corked. The older this quintessence is, the more vertues it acquires.

No. VI. Roots of *Nenuphar*, or *water lily*,  
... of *Althea*, of each half  
an ounce.

N

*Linseed,*



## APPENDIX.

*Linseed,**Lettuce-seed,**Cucumber-seed,*

of each half a drachm.

Boil them all during eight minutes in a quart of water from a smith's forge, afterwards, dissolve in it six grains of *sugar of lead*.

As this composition, like all others in which emollients bear a part, will not keep; it will be the most prudent to prepare only as much as will be used in the twenty-four hours.

No. VII. Leaves of *Vervain Mallows*,

..... of *Marsh Mallows*,

..... of *Groundsel*,

of each an handful.

Boil them during eight minutes in a broth made of a chicken well bruised; add an ounce of *sweet almonds* to the liquor strained off, when it is put in the syringe.

This clyster is at once emulcent, cooling, and tonical.

No. VIII. Fresh pulp of *Cassia*, three ounces. Boil it in a gallon of *water*. Put six grains of *emetic tartar* into the liquor when strained off, and let them dissolve in it.

Infuse,

Infuse, at night, into this strained liquor, which must be in some vessel well covered,

Leaves of *Sena*, two drachms.

*Rhubarb* in powder, three drachms.

In the morning pour the liquor off clear, and put it into bottles.

As the purgatives are relative, the use of this may be omitted, whenever it is observed to have had a sufficient effect.

No. IX. A pint of *water*.

Two table spoonfuls, or half an ounce of *vinegar*.

Put in four grains of *sugar of lead*, and let it dissolve.

No. X. *Gourd-seed*,

*Pumpion-seed*,

*Cucumber-seed*,

*Melon-seed*, of each one drachm.

Bruise these seeds in a mortar, wetting them with the distilled water of the *Nenuphar*, in the quantity of four ounces; pour it off clear, and put into the strained liquor, an ounce of the syrup of *Nymphaea*, or of *violets*, or of *Althæa*.

No.

- No. XI. Take a lean *fowl*; a pound from a *fillet of veal*; half an handful of *barley*; four bruised *crabs*. Throw them into three pints of water. Let them boil very gently, until the whole be reduced to a quart. Add to it the Leaves of *Agrimony*,  
 . . . . . of *Pimpernel*,  
 . . . . . of *Scolopendrium*,  
 . . . . . of *Wild Cicory*,  
 . . . . . of *Fumitory*,  
 . . . . . of *Cresses*,  
 of each half an handful.

When the liquor has boiled one or two minutes longer, take the pot from the fire, and let the herbs steep in it, during an hour; then empty it into a strong cloth bag, and afterwards press it so that all the juice of the herbs, and meat may run through. There will remain about a quart of strained liquor, which may be divided into two broths.

- No. XII. A pint of clarified whey, in which boil, during a quarter of an hour, the

Leaves



Leaves of *Plantane*,  
 . . . . . of *Vervain-Mallows*,  
 Roots of *Marsh-Mallows*,  
 . . . . . of *Nenuphar*,  
 of each half an handful.

An head of the *white poppy*.

Strain it off gently; infuse in it, during twelve hours, a drachm of *oriental saffron*, and after having strained it, a second time, put it into a proper vessel, to be ready for use.

These injections ought to be renewed every day, as they soon turn sour, and may, in that state be more detrimental, than serviceable.

No. XIII.

*Seeds of Cicory*,  
 . . . . . of *Lettuce*,  
 . . . . . of *Endive*.  
 . . . . . of *Purslane*,  
 of each a drachm.  
*Leaves of Althæa*,  
 . . . . . of *Mallows*,  
 of each an handful,  
*Roots of Althæa*,  
 . . . . . of *Nenuphar*,  
 of each half an ounce.  
 An head of *Poppy*.

Boil the whole in a sufficient quantity of water, to produce three quarts from it. Strain it, and put it into a proper vessel to be ready for use.

This decoction must be renewed every day.

No. XIV. Take two ounces of the best *Opium*, an ounce of *Saffron*, a drachm of pulverised *Cinnamon*, and an equal quantity of *Cloves*. Infuse the whole in a full pint of *Sack*, and let it remain during three days in as moderate an heat as that of the sun, then strain off the liquor, and let the bottle be well corked.

No. XV. Take twelve ounces of the *Mercury Sublimata*; beat it in a marble mortar, with an hard and heavy wooden pestle, adding to it two drachms of gold filings. Throw on it cold water, and continue to beat it. Pour off the dirty water, and repeat this lotion, continuing to

to beat it five or six times. Let this *amalgama* of gold and *mercury* have time to dry, putting it into a *matrafs*, and adding as much good spirit of *vitriol* as will make it somewhat larger than the finger; leave the *matrafs* on the potashes during twenty-four hours; then let it digest in the cold, during eight days, after which take a small *alembic*, and throw into it the dissolution. Adopt an *head*, and a *recipient*, distil, and return into the *alembic* what may have passed into the *recipient*, re-distil it thus, to the fifth time, and the last time, till it be dry; put the pulverised matter into an unvarnished earthen dish, and set it on a charcoal fire, let it redden during four or five hours, then close it up in a bottle; the dose of this powder is from three to six grains.



## No. XVI.

*Crude barley,*  
*Lentils,*  
*Beans, with their pods,*  
of each an ounce.  
*Flowers of Agrimony,*  
..... of *Abfintbium,*  
..... of *Horeboud,*  
of each half an handful.  
*Roots of Birthwort,*  
..... of *Orris,*  
of each a drachm.

Boil the whole for about a quarter of an hour, in a quart of water. Strain it, and pour it into a vefsel to be ready for use. This decoction will keep very well two days.

## No. XVII.

*Roots of the greater Comfry,*  
..... of *Biftort,*  
of each two handfals.  
*Leaves of Plantane,*  
..... of *Horse tail,*  
..... of *Shepherd's-purse,*  
..... of *Sanicle,*  
..... of *Milfoil,*  
of each half an handful.  
*Leaves of red Roses, a large*  
*spoonful,*

Let

Let them boil during one or two minutes, in a quart of water, strain it, and pour it into a vessel to be ready for use.

This decoction will keep as well as the preceding one.

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## REMEDIES FOR THE FLUOR ALBUS, or WHITES,

Referred to in this Work:

THE one is an exterior, and the other is an interior remedy. They may sometimes be employed separately; but it will the most frequently be proper to administer them together. There are even cases in which they become insufficient. But as in the most common cases I have always employed them with success, I do not hesitate to publish them, premising that it is necessary, first, to clear away the *prime viæ*, when they choak up the part;

part; secondly, to accompany the remedies with a very exact regimen: and these are two circumstances on which it is requisite to consult a physician.

The sex may be more fully satisfied in this point, by referring to my "*Advice to the Ladies concerning their health*," a work which will shortly be in their hands, and which they would have received already, if, having been asked my opinion relative to the univocal signs of pregnancy, I had not been irresistably induced to make the most exact enquiries into the nature of those false tokens of gravidity, which daily dishonour the most blameless women, and throw their families into a state of horror and despair. The regard which I shall always feel for my fellow-creatures obliged me at once to abandon every other study, and solely employ my humble abilities in vindicating the sex from the aspersions which might be thrown upon them, by the premature judgement of a part of the public.

*The exterior Remedy.*

Take a pound of *Litbarge* of gold well porphirised.

A quart of the strongest wine vinegar.

Boil



Boil them together in a glazed earthen pot, during an hour and an half, continually stirring the ingredients. Let the matter cool, and then set it by, in a proper place. A red liquor will swim on the surface, and this must be taken off with a spoon, and put into a vessel, to be kept for use.

Take a tea-spoonful of this liquor, and two tea-spoonfuls of camphorated spirit of wine, which must be put into a quart of filtered water.

Before it be used, shake the bottle, then pour the necessary quantity into a cup which hath stood some little time in a *balneum marie*, or hot water; then fill a syringe with the preparation in the cup, and inject it carefully and gently into the *matrix*; let these injections be frequently repeated in the day time, chusing such a posture as may be most convenient for the retaining of them, during nine or ten minutes.

We are indebted for this remedy, which is equally wonderful and simple, to *Monsieur Goulard*, Professor, and Demonstrator Royal of Surgery, in the University of *Montpelier*, and our acknowledgements to him would be unlimited, if, idolizing his own discoveries  
too

too much, he had not recommended and practised the use of it *inwardly*: but this is what the masters of the art, in spite of the veneration which they must always retain for *Monsieur Goulard*, will never dare to adopt. It would be fortunate indeed, were these same masters, whilst they respected the superior learning and abilities of the *Baron Van Swieten*, to resolve with that unanimity and firmness, which conviction ought always to inspire, on incessantly proscribing the most violent and quick poison; I mean the *Corrosive Sublimate* which he hath unhappily recommended in *venereal* disorders. Should the baron, in all other respects so deserving of universal applause, hereafter withdraw his opinion, in pity to Mankind, whose destruction he really hath occasioned by this cruel prescription which Heaven in anger allows our pernicious Chymists to adopt; then, every academy in the World ought to raise to his honour, those solid monuments, which the revolutions of time are incapable of destroying. For, by such a retraction, he would preserve the lives of as many individuals, as the most sanguinary wars could possibly sweep away. This digression may perhaps appear misplaced; but the

the burden on my heart was too heavy to be supported any longer.

*The interior remedy for the Fluor-Albus.*

Take the peel of preserved oranges, and lemons, of each two ounces; cloves, and canella alba, of each two drachms; grated nutmeg, one drachm; the best treacle, three drachms; crabs-eyes, one ounce.

Pulverise the whole as much as possible, and beat it a long while in a mortar, with the preserved peel, not ceasing until it be reduced to a paste; add to it three drachms of the best rhubarb, finely powdered; beat this also in the mortar, until every thing shall have been incorporated, throwing in, at the same time, as much syrup of quinces, as may be necessary to reduce the whole to the form of an opiate somewhat solid, which must be put in a pot, and kept for use in a cool place.

The patient must take as much as is equal to the size of a filbert, in the morning, fasting, and at night, when going to bed.

This



This opiate is an excellent stomachic, and I have been so fortunate as frequently to find it successful in cases where the *Fluor Albus* proceeds from a vice in the stomach. These, indeed, are the most common cases.

I like the best of preserved oranges, and  
 lemon, of each two ounces; cloves, and  
 vanilla also, of each two drachms; ground  
 nutmeg, one drachm; the best white, three  
 drachms; cardus, one ounce.

Reduce the whole as much as possible,  
 and beat it a long while in a mortar, with  
 the preserved peel, not ceasing until it be re-  
 duced to a paste, add to it three drachms  
 of the best white, finely powdered, beat

this also in the mortar, and every thing  
 that have been incorporated, throwing in,  
 at the same time, as much syrup of gum,  
 as may be necessary to reduce the whole to  
 the form of an opiate somewhat solid, which  
 must be put in a pot, and kept for use in a  
 cool place.

The patient must take as much as is equal  
 to the size of a walnut, in the morning,  
 fasting, and at night, when going to bed.

